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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Summary

In the present report, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) describes activities in some of the fields considered in the recommendations identified by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its fifth session. The report also discusses some of the activities that FAO is currently undertaking in relation to the special theme of the sixth session of the Forum, namely, Territories, lands and natural resources.

Section I of the report mentions a number of meetings relevant to indigenous peoples that were organized or supported by FAO and provides information on cultural indicators of indigenous peoples' food and agro-ecological systems. FAO activities on the rights-based approach as it relates to indigenous peoples have included the establishment of a special Right to Food Unit to follow up on the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (Rome, 2005), and to work on legal and technical studies, advocacy and education material for the promotion and implementation of the Guidelines. In the area of gender, indigenous peoples and biodiversity, FAO has produced studies documenting the Maasai traditional management of livestock, and their breeding and selection of animals in the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as a study on Maasai indigenous knowledge of range management and forage plants. The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems project initiated in 2002 is currently being carried out in seven countries including several indigenous communities.

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Section II considers the activities that FAO is undertaking related to land and territories, including an examination of its work concerning the recognition of traditional land rights within policies and legal frameworks, participatory delimitation of lands and territories, alternative conflict management regarding land tenure, and participatory and negotiated territorial development. Also discussed are the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (Porto Alegre, Brazil, 7-10 March 2006), where a special thematic session was organized on "Indigenous peoples and their right to land, territories and resources: synergies and tensions with agrarian reform and rural development", and the FAO biennial publication *Land Reform, Land Settlement and Cooperatives*, which was considered topics related to the special theme of the Forum's sixth session.

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I. Activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) related to the recommendations identified by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its fifth session

Indigenous peoples and communication for development

1. It has been noted that indigenous peoples often have limited access to the communication and information services needed to support their own development goals. It is therefore crucial that they implement ad hoc communication-for-development policies so that they can participate more fully and effectively in development.

2. During the first World Congress on Communication for Development held in Rome from 25 to 27 October 2006, a special session on indigenous peoples' communication for development was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The session focused on the role of communication in combating the marginalization and isolation of indigenous peoples and on its potential to foster their self-determination and development. The session was chaired by Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Representatives of indigenous peoples worldwide shared their relevant experiences, and participated in an interactive discussion with the audience. The session was based on the results of previous activities organized by FAO in Bolivia in September 2006 in collaboration with other indigenous peoples' organizations: the regional workshop on indigenous peoples' communication for development in Latin America, and the subsequent International Meeting on Indigenous Peoples' Communication for Development.

3. The special session of the World Congress recommended guaranteeing the right of indigenous peoples to communication for self-determined development. The participants agreed that it was essential to promote policies, mechanisms and initiatives that guaranteed and enhanced the realization of the right to communication of indigenous peoples. In line with the purposes of the special session, FAO produced two video programmes on indigenous peoples' experiences in respect of communication and sustainable livelihood.

4. An important outcome of the meetings in Bolivia was the establishment of a Latin America regional communication platform on indigenous peoples' communication and sustainable livelihood supported by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). This platform will be an important vehicle for dialogue and collaboration between United Nations organizations and indigenous peoples in the region.

Cultural indicators of indigenous peoples' food and agro-ecological systems

5. Indigenous peoples worldwide are urgently calling for recognition of the fundamental and vital importance of culture for the viability of their traditional food and agro-ecological systems, as well as for sustainable development. Culture encompasses the shared beliefs, values, traditions, customs, knowledge and

ceremonies that people transmit across generations and use to define and sustain their collective identities and the relationship of indigenous peoples with each other and the world. Traditional cultural practices and food systems are positively related and mutually supportive and both are fundamental for food security and well-being. However, development interventions, as well as global trends of expansion of industrialized agriculture, monocultures, and the market economy, can have negative and, in some cases, devastating impacts on the traditional food systems, subsistence-based economies and agro-ecological systems upon which indigenous peoples depend for survival.

6. During the regional consultation for the follow-up to the World Food Summit and the World Food Summit: five years later, held in Guatemala from 23 to 25 April 2004, indigenous peoples emphasized the importance of indigenous culture for sustainable agriculture and food systems, as expressed in the Declaration of Atitlán. Since then, FAO has been working with indigenous peoples' organizations to identify cultural indicators for sustainable agriculture and rural development. In 2004, FAO supported indigenous peoples in the elaboration of a "Survey on Cultural Indicators of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Indigenous People's Traditional Foods and Cultures". In 2006, a technical paper entitled "Cultural indicators of indigenous peoples' food and agro-ecological systems" was prepared by FAO with the support of the Government of Norway.

7. The technical paper provides a literature review that elaborates and validates indigenous peoples' views about some of the most important cultural indicators of food security, food sovereignty, agro-ecological systems and sustainable development. It also reviews indicators currently in use or recently identified by other organizations to monitor these interactions, and proposes areas for which new indicators may be needed. The document offers evidence of the relationship between indigenous culture and food and agro-ecological systems. A review of the research and scientific basis for the factors, interactions and trends recognized by indigenous peoples was undertaken in order to support the capacity of indigenous peoples themselves to convince others of the legitimacy of their views.

Second Global Consultation on the Right to Food, Food Security and Food Sovereignty for Indigenous Peoples

8. The FAO perspective on the right to food, food security and food sovereignty for indigenous peoples was presented at the second Global Consultation thereon, held in Bilwi, Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, from 7 to 9 September 2006. The meeting was organized by the International Indian Treaty Council and the major group focal point for indigenous peoples, with FAO technical support and financial contributions from the Government of Norway and the Christensen Fund. The aforementioned FAO-produced technical paper "Cultural indicators of indigenous peoples' food and agro-ecological systems" was discussed during the meeting. This meeting was held immediately after the Permanent Forum's Latin American Regional Consultation on Indicators of Well-Being, which was also held in Bilwi. The outputs of the Consultation were highly relevant to, and thus fed into, the discussions of the Global Consultation.

9. The meeting brought together 30 representatives of indigenous peoples from Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, Northern America and Europe, as well

as representatives of local government (Nicaragua), and of a number of United Nations organizations. The participants at the Global Consultation identified a set of 11 main indicators of well-being, which they agreed to organize within the following five clusters:

(a) Access to lands, territories, natural resources, sacred sites and ceremonial areas;

(b) Abundance and scarcity of, and/or threats to, traditional seeds, plant foods and medicines, and food animals, and their associated production practices;

(c) Use and transmission of knowledge, methods, language, ceremonies, dances, prayers, and oral histories, related to traditional foods and agro-food systems, and the continued use of traditional foods in daily diet;

(d) Capacity for adaptability, resilience and/or restoration of traditional food use and production;

(e) Ability of indigenous peoples to exercise their rights of self-determination and free prior informed consent, and to defend their food sovereignty and their own development.

FAO and the rights approach in relation to indigenous peoples

10. In November 2004, the FAO Council unanimously adopted the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.[1] The adoption of the Guidelines reflected the movement of FAO away from the debate over the normative content of the right to food towards a more practical approach entailing implementation. Operational in nature, the Guidelines are both a practical tool designed to orient States' policies and measures and an advocacy tool for use by all stakeholders in implementing the right to food at the national level. The Guidelines cover a wide range of actions to be considered by Governments aiming both to create and secure an enabling environment for all where people can feed themselves in dignity and to establish safety nets for those who are unable to do so for reasons beyond their control.

11. Crucial in this regard is the problem of securing access to productive resources for all individuals and groups. Fighting hunger and malnutrition requires tackling the problems of discrimination that characterize the situation of many groups that are politically or geographically marginalized or live in relatively remote areas. In this regard, guideline 8.1 states, inter alia, that "(S)tates should respect and protect the rights of individuals with respect to resources such as land, water, forests, fisheries, and livestock without any discrimination" and that "special attention may be given to groups such as pastoralists and indigenous people and their relation to natural resources". Empowerment and participation are stressed in the Guidelines as key elements of a rights-based approach, and people's capacity-building is indicated as one way to enhance them. In the case of indigenous peoples, the hunger problem (already a critical issue per se) overlaps with that of discrimination. Recent developments in the areas of both indigenous issues and the right to food suggest a joint approach to the two areas, and renewed attention to themes that are becoming dominant in the human rights agenda.

12. In 2006, FAO established a special Right to Food Unit to follow up on the Voluntary Guidelines. During its first year, the Unit has produced legal and technical studies, advocacy and education material for the promotion and implementation of the Guidelines, and human rights-based approaches to food security. In 2007, the Unit plans to issue a technical paper on the right to food and indigenous issues and an analytical study on human rights, the right to food and access to natural resources. The fact that the theme of the 2007 World Food Day (16 October) is "The right to food" will provide an opportunity to promote that concept in every country that celebrates the Day.

Gender, indigenous peoples and biodiversity

13. Gender is a core FAO programme that cuts across all of the activities of the Organization. Some of the activities related to indigenous peoples and gender involve issues relating to biodiversity. Together with the Government of the Netherlands, FAO is working on a project on gender, biodiversity and local knowledge systems devised to strengthen agriculture and rural development in Southern Africa. The project, entitled "Gender, biodiversity and local knowledge systems for food security (LinKS)", focuses on local and indigenous knowledge systems and their important role for sustainable agro-biodiversity management and food security. It is aimed at raising awareness about how rural men and women use and manage biodiversity and at promoting the importance of local knowledge at local, institutional and policy levels. Training and capacity-building, support to research activities, communication and advocacy to enhance sharing, and exchange of information on the value of local and indigenous knowledge are key activity areas of the project. The project has carried out case studies that document specific constraints and opportunities for men and women farmers in local seed management, selection and breeding of animals, managing tree crops, etc. The studies reveal the difficulties women face in having limited access to natural resources. They also reveal the critical linkages between rural, informal management systems of natural resources and national policies. The gender dimensions of the biodiversity and knowledge systems of the Maasai groups have been documented in studies on:

- Preferences and criteria employed in selection and breeding of livestock by the Maasai in the United Republic of Tanzania
- Change of local knowledge systems related to breeding and selection of animals of the Maasai in the United Republic of Tanzania
- Utilization of indigenous knowledge of range management and forage plants for improving livestock productivity and food security in the Maasai and Barbaig communities

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

14. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002), FAO presented a partnership initiative on conservation and adaptive management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) with the support of the Global Environment Facility and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations University (UNU), IFAD, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), BioDiversity International and country partners. The initiative aims to achieve the recognition, conservation and sustainable management of such agricultural systems and their associated landscapes, biodiversity, knowledge systems and cultures. The initiative's major target beneficiaries are small-scale, traditional family farmers, resource-poor local communities and indigenous peoples. The initiative will provide an opportunity for the international community to recognize and support the contribution of indigenous peoples to conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture, cultural diversity, and food security through their own unique agricultural practices and management systems.

15. In order to provide systematic support for the conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS, the programme strategy involves interventions at three levels. At the global level, the programme will facilitate international recognition of the concept of GIAHS and will consolidate and disseminate lessons learned and best practices derived from programme activities at the pilot-country level. At the national level in pilot countries, the programme will ensure mainstreaming of the GIAHS concept in national sectoral and intersectoral plans and policies. At the site level in pilot countries, the programme will address dynamic conservation and adaptive management in communities. It is expected that the programme will also contribute to key global sustainable development agendas through (a) enhancing the benefits derived by local populations and indigenous peoples from the management, conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and natural resources; (b) adding economic value and sharing derived benefits from these systems; and (c) enhancing food security and alleviating poverty in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals, the World Food Summit Plan of Action[2] and national poverty reduction strategies. During the programme development phases for 2002-2006, five GIAHS were established in seven countries encompassing: Chiloe agriculture in Chile; rice-fish agriculture in China; Andean agriculture in Peru; Ifugao rice terraces in the Philippines; and oases of the Maghreb in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. In 2007, the full-scale GIAHS programme will be implemented in the pilot systems and activities will be carried out with Huilliche and Mestizo communities in Chiloe island, with Aymara and Quechua communities in the Peruvian Andes, with the various ethnic groups of Ifugaos in the Philippines, with Berbers in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, and with the traditional Han community in China.

II. Contribution of FAO with respect to the special theme of the sixth session of the Forum: Territories, lands and natural resources

FAO land tenure work on indigenous peoples issues: recognition of traditional land rights within policies and legal frameworks

16. The integration and recognition of customary land rights within land tenure legal frameworks and policies have constituted one feature of FAO work, especially in Africa. An important experience was provided by Mozambique, where FAO provided technical support to the participatory formulation process of the Land Law

and Land Policy, recognizing communities' customary rights to access and management of the land. Land Law 19/97 of Mozambique embraces a rights-based approach as regards recognition of both the communities' customary land rights and those of people who have been occupying and using the land in good faith for more than 10 years. While the State maintains its role as the owner of all of the territory of Mozambique, both types of land users are recognized in their right to occupy and use the land through the *direito de uso e aproveitamento da terra* (DUAT). All forms of tenure grant the holder exclusive rights over the land, and rights holders have full legal status. Existing customary and good-faith settlers have permanent rights, whereas newly acquired rights are granted for a maximum period of 50 years, renewable for another 50 years.

Participatory land delimitation

17. FAO has formulated an approach to facilitating the delimitation of land in a participatory and negotiated manner on the basis of the experience in Mozambique. The requirement of issuing land rights certificates in a territory where community and other land parcel boundaries have not been surveyed or delimited physically presents challenges for the reconciliation of conflicting land claims — when, for example, claims of land settlers and communities overlap either wholly or partially. The approach follows normal participatory adjudication procedures, including appropriate negotiation, mapping and agreement of boundaries and natural resources ownership of indigenous peoples among all parties, so as to enable the data to be recorded in the national cadastre/registration system.

Land tenure alternative conflicts management

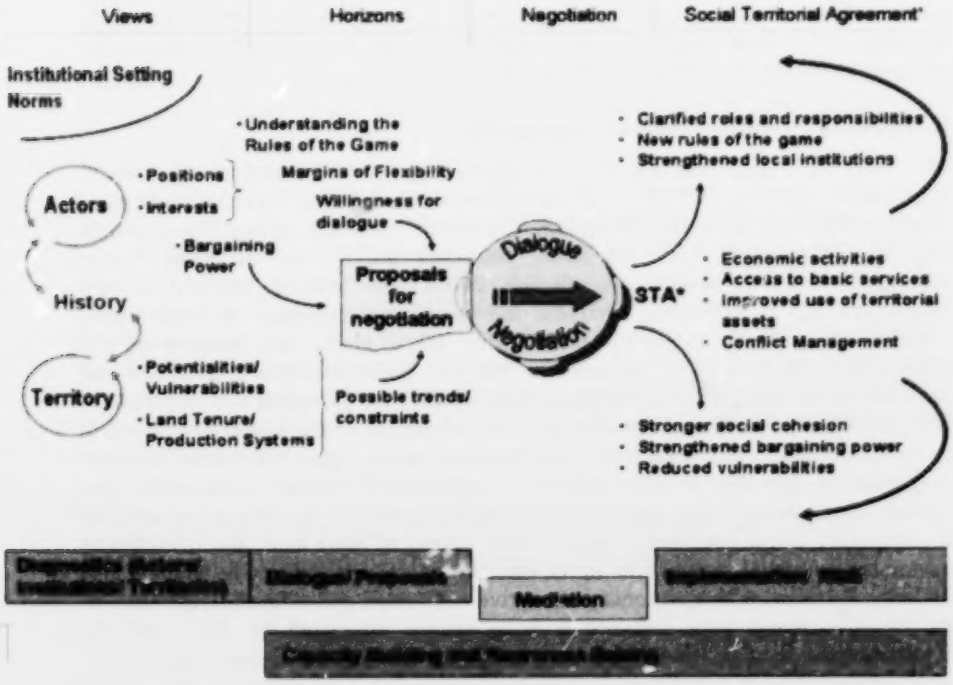
18. FAO has a long-standing interest in addressing the causes and management of land tenure conflicts. In 2006, FAO, in collaboration with the Livelihoods Support Project funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the International Land Coalition, published the Manual on Land Tenure Alternative Conflict Management (Rome, 2006). The Manual, targeted at land tenure conflict practitioners, analyses the main characteristics of land tenure conflict, the context in which the conflict takes place, the features of the stakeholders taking part in the conflict, and their balance-of-power relations and provides users with the resources required to identify the processes and evolution of a conflict and the different options for its management and eventual resolution. It deals with conflicts that arise over: inherited land tenure rights; boundaries between neighbouring families or communities; disagreements between pastoralists and farmers over access to land and water in a specific territory; disagreements between a community and a government agency over access to State land; and overlapping customary and legal frameworks in the recognition of land rights. The Manual also includes exercises with a regional perspective elaborated and refined on the basis of an FAO-facilitated pilot distance training course organized by FAO and the International Land Coalition in 2005.

Participatory and negotiated territorial development

19. The participatory experiences in both land delimitation and conflict management have led to the development within FAO of an open and participatory development planning methodology as the basis for defining community-based territorial plans. This provides an approach to prevention and management of

problems arising from local competition, including competition over land and natural resources. The methodology allows for a negotiated aggregation of local demands and provides inputs for an adaptation/redefinition of national and local plans to meet such demands. The main purpose of the process is to strengthen the dialogue and mutual trust among the various actors and between the actors and the institutions. Decentralized institutions (whether local or municipal) represent the main entry point in a collaborative attempt to influence social, cultural and political change and to improve the design of, and coordination between, interventions at the different decision levels (from civil society and organizations related to the State and its decentralized bodies). Each case should be analysed from the points of view of the actors regarding current issues and problematic trends, causes of tensions or conflicts, and local opportunities and potentials that need to be developed (human, social, environmental, productive, etc.). The general approach to territorial planning adopted with this methodology — which embraces the complexity and totality of the territory — cannot overlook the need for these concepts to be oriented towards offering practical solutions for sustainable rural development to FAO member countries.

20. The following figure gives an idea of the process and the products:



Indigenous peoples and the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

21. The FAO Strategic Framework defines a strategy that accords high priority to providing more equitable access to land and other natural resources. FAO is convinced of the importance of the commitment towards agrarian reform and rural development in the development agenda. Progress in these areas is fundamental if the goal is to be achieved of reducing by half the number of poor and hungry people by 2015, as set out in the Millennium Development Goals.

22. FAO and the Government of Brazil organized the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from 7 to 10 March 2006. The meeting provided an important opportunity for the participants — Governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and United Nations and intergovernmental development organizations, to renew the commitment to, and review different experiences of, agrarian reform and rural development around the world by analyzing impacts, processes, mechanisms and the nature of the actors involved, in order to develop proposals for future action. Five themes were discussed during the meeting:

(a) Policies and practices for securing and improving access to land and promoting agrarian reform;

(b) Building local capacities to improve access to land, water, agricultural inputs and agrarian services so as to promote rural development and a sustainable management of natural resources;

(c) New opportunities to strengthen rural producers and communities;

(d) Agrarian reform, social justice and sustainable development;

(e) Food sovereignty and access to resources.

23. Several indigenous peoples groups joined the conference. Together with six other constituencies of civil society, indigenous peoples were represented in a panel session on agrarian reform and food sovereignty "on equal footing" with government representatives. An indigenous person was selected by the parallel civil society forum on "Land, territory and dignity" to present in the plenary the Forum's results and declaration. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues organized a special thematic session during the Conference on "Indigenous peoples and their right to land, territories and resources: synergies and tensions with agrarian reform and rural development". The session discussions, which focused on the challenges to promoting and reaching the Millennium Development Goals through agrarian reform and rural development within the indigenous peoples' perspective, provided important inputs for the final Declaration of the Conference.[3]

24. As indicated in the Conference declaration, indigenous peoples' organizations, as well as other civil society organizations and United Nations organizations dealing with food sovereignty, food security, agrarian reform and rural development, will continue to participate in the process of implementation of the principles (see paras. 29-30 of the Declaration).

Land Reform, Land Settlement and Cooperatives

25. The FAO Land Tenure and Management Unit (formerly the Land Tenure Service) publishes the biennial journal *Land Reform, Land Settlement and Cooperatives*. The 2004/1 issue of the journal focused on indigenous peoples and land rights. The publication provided an overview of indigenous peoples and their land rights, analysed by geographical region, together with examples of how indigenous land rights are dealt with in specific countries, including Ecuador and Peru in Latin America, Zimbabwe in Africa, New Zealand in the Pacific and the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Asia.

Notes

[1] Rome, FAO, 2005; see also E/CN.4/2005/131, annex.

[2] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit, 13-17 November 1996* (WFS 96/REP), part one, appendix.

[3] Available from www.icarrd.org/.

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Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Summary

This report presents the progress achieved by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), taking into account the recommendations made at the fifth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The main activities concern the production of sociodemographic information on Latin American indigenous peoples and the conduct of studies on their living conditions from a rights-based perspective. International seminars have also been held on the issues of indigenous peoples' rights, poverty and health, and the Commission has participated in a number of meetings of experts.

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I. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Data collection and disaggregation

1. In 2006, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) — Population Division of ECLAC developed a sociodemographic system on indigenous populations and peoples of Latin America in collaboration with the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (or "Indigenous Fund"). The system is part of the Indigenous Fund's "Information System on Indigenous Peoples" project, which came about in order to improve the accessibility and quality of information resources for and on indigenous peoples.

2. The main goal of the system is to design and distribute a support tool for public policy decision-making aimed at decreasing ethnic inequities and promoting the well-being of indigenous peoples. There are a number of phases in the development of the system. The first was begun in May 2006 and involved the development of indicators using data from the 2000 census round, taking an approach that allows for the identification of ethnic, generational and gender gaps. The System for the Retrieval of Census Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer (Redatam+SP) software was used to process census microdata supplied to CELADE by 11 countries of the region: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The system includes 52 indicators in the following subject areas: population; fertility and mortality; territorial distribution and internal migration; formal education; culture; socio-economic characteristics; housing and basic sanitation; and households and families.

3. One important characteristic of the sociodemographic system is that users can access each indicator's definition as well as other technical notes which enhance understanding and transparency. The features included for each indicator are: name of the indicator; definition; method of calculation; statistical interpretation; contextual interpretation and relevance; observations; and additional notes on the processing of census data. The innovative feature that distinguishes this system from other indicator systems is the note on contextual interpretation and relevance. Since census data allow for the derivation of conventional indicators, this section sets out the main limitations and interpretative considerations for an appropriate reading according to the cultural specificities of indigenous peoples. An example and a sample of the system, which will be available to users as from March 2007, have been included in the annex to this document.

4. The joint Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)-ECLAC/CELADE project entitled "An ethnic approach to sources of health data: experiences in the Mapuche area of the southern corridor of Argentina and Chile. Recommendations for their future development in the context of the Americas" began in January 2007, with the aim of contributing to the design of strategies for collecting information to monitor the reduction of health inequities associated with ethnic origin, specifically in indigenous populations. The goal is to gain awareness of a set of measurement practices developed locally and to make recommendations to facilitate the

incorporation of an ethnic perspective referring to indigenous peoples and other social groups in the health sector's administrative records. The 18-month-long project will be conducted in two phases: one for information collection and study and the other for testing, validation and recommendations (pilot tests will be conducted in at least two countries of the region).

5. Within the framework of this project, the first workshop entitled "Basic principles, experiences, reflections and proposals on the identification of the indigenous/Mapuche population in health records and statistics" was held on 26 January 2007 in Temuco (Araucanía Region, Chile), with the support of the Health Research Centre of the University of La Frontera and the sponsorship of the Southern Araucanía Health Service and the Ministerial Health Department of the Araucanía Region. The workshop was coordinated by an indigenous professional and a non-indigenous consultant. The Mapuche community participated actively with approximately 36 people from 17 districts in the Araucanía Region (the provinces of Cautín and Malleco) representing a number of health organizations and centres (intercultural facilitators and advisers, directors, rural health post workers, Mapuche professionals and representatives of grass-roots indigenous organizations working on health issues) dealing with Mapuche issues in health departments. A document containing the recommendations and proposals made at the workshop is being drafted.

Social and demographic studies

6. The fourteenth edition of the ECLAC *Social Panorama of Latin America*, published in 2006, includes an exhaustive chapter on "Indigenous peoples of Latin America: old inequities, mixed realities and new obligations for democracies in the twenty-first century" prepared by CELADE — Population Division of ECLAC with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This study is unprecedented in the region in terms of both the information and the analysis that it contains. The sociodemographic inequalities that affect indigenous peoples are highlighted within the framework of structural discrimination and cultural specificities, from the perspective of the new international standard for indigenous peoples' human rights. With this document, ECLAC has taken a position on the issue by highlighting indigenous peoples' individual and collective rights.

7. The chapter includes the following points: the emergence of indigenous peoples on the agendas for democracy and development; the challenge of new international standards on human rights for indigenous peoples; the challenge of measuring the indigenous population: who are they? how many are there? where are they?; diverse demographic profiles: a review of the differences; international migration among indigenous peoples; shifting borders and complex identities; and diversity and sociodemographic inequality of indigenous peoples: reflections for the formulation of policies within the framework of individual and collective rights. Particular mention should be made of the fact that this chapter was prepared by a team of indigenous and non-indigenous professionals; for example, the human rights-based frame of reference was prepared by an indigenous expert. A summary of the chapter is available on the ECLAC website at www.eclac.org.

8. In April 2006, the ECLAC Social Development Division issued a document entitled "Indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples in the new millennium".[1] This is the main ECLAC document submitted at the preparatory meeting for the Santiago + 5 Conference on Racism, Xenophobia, Discrimination and Intolerance, held from 10 to 12 August 2005 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile.

Technical assistance and training

9. Between 20 July and 4 August 2006, CELADE was a member of the evaluation mission for Nicaragua's eighth population and fourth housing census, conducted in 2005. The evaluation team included two CELADE experts, one UNFPA Technical Support Team expert and two independent consultants. The mission was requested by Nicaragua's National Institute of Statistics and Censuses and supported by UNFPA. An exhaustive analysis of the census was conducted, covering all thematic areas and attaching particular importance to the questions concerning ethnic origin. The mission prepared a report containing the evaluation results, conclusions, recommendations and potential uses for census data. The quantification of the indigenous population of Nicaragua through the 2005 census represented a substantial improvement with respect to the previous census, owing to, among other issues, a change in the criterion used to identify those groups (from language spoken in 1995 to self-identification in 2005). The mission recommended, inter alia, that exhaustive use should be made of census data, taking into consideration the three questions related to indigenous peoples, and that the Institute should continue to promote and guarantee the participation of indigenous professionals in information generation and analysis in order to ensure a contextual interpretation of the data using an intercultural approach, within the framework of indigenous peoples' rights.

10. The Ibero-American training course on economic, social and cultural rights and public policy, organized by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Henry Dunant University College and the Henry Dunant Foundation of Latin America, was aimed at indigenous and non-indigenous technicians and professionals working in public policy. CELADE participated in the module on cultural rights, multiculturalism and human rights, and gave a presentation on "Indigenous peoples of Latin America: recognition and statistical visibility".

II. Other activities related to the recommendations of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for United Nations agencies

11. Among the activities for indigenous populations and peoples in Latin America carried out by CELADE – Population Division of ECLAC was the international seminar on "Indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean: relevance of sociodemographic information for policies and programmes", held at ECLAC headquarters from 27 to 29 April 2005. The seminar

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. S.06.II.G.45 (in Spanish only).

was successful in enabling indigenous and non-indigenous experts to share their ideas and proposals and to arrive at a series of recommendations on the generation of information and the improvement of public policies for indigenous peoples. A book containing the papers presented at the seminar, including the recommendations, was published in May 2006. It can be downloaded from the CELADE website at www.cepal.org/celade. The seminar was sponsored by the Government of France.

12. In September 2006, responding to recommendations made at the seminar, and again with financing from the Government of France, CELADE launched a project entitled "Progress with respect to health policies and programmes for indigenous peoples in Latin America since the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People". The specific goals of the project are to: (a) identify the areas where health policies and programmes have been developed for indigenous peoples, characterizing them in selected countries of the region; (b) describe the progress, achievements and difficulties faced in the development and implementation of policies and programmes; (c) compare the progress of different countries in ensuring the exercise of the rights of indigenous peoples; (d) highlight and disseminate examples of best practices at the regional level; (e) identify opportunities to conduct future activities in the design and implementation of health polices and programmes for indigenous peoples, involving all political and social stakeholders; and (f) formulate recommendations for the development and dissemination of best practices in health policies and programmes for indigenous peoples. In order to attain the goals, a survey targeting Government institutions for indigenous peoples' affairs and health ministries was designed and sent to the countries of the region. National contacts were obtained through the PAHO regional office in Ecuador, and cooperation agreements are being concluded with them regarding the current project. Based on the survey and secondary information, a document will be prepared and presented at the meeting of experts to be held in the framework of the project in May 2007.

13. In 2006, the Regional Bilingual Literacy Project (CELADE with the cooperation of the Government of Italy) continued to be implemented in Guatemala, Paraguay and Peru, reaching its goal of teaching more than 36,000 people to read in their mother tongue and in Spanish on subjects including productive development, environmental protection, health, rights and community organization. In Guatemala, along with the planned activities in Mam-speaking areas, literacy training methods were designed for a total of 15 major Mayan languages, and the methods were transferred to national technical teams with a view to implementation in 2007. Substantive progress was made in all three countries in institutionalizing the project, as it was included in official literacy plans and received 80 per cent of its funding from national sources, as well as in forming inter-agency and intersectoral linkages among Government agencies, international cooperation and civil society organizations, in particular partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private companies under the rubric of corporate social responsibility.

Seminars and expert meetings

14. The ECLAC Women and Development Unit, in conjunction with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), organized an expert meeting entitled "Gender, poverty, race, ethnicity: the situation in Latin America", which

took place at ECLAC headquarters on 7 and 8 November 2006. The meeting, held within the framework of the poverty, gender and race project coordinated by UNIFEM, was held in order to follow up on the decision taken at the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City from 10 to 12 June 2004, to promote and strengthen affirmative actions for empowering rural, indigenous, Afro-descendent, young and elderly women, and for increasing their access to resources by analysing the progress made in reviewing poverty reduction programmes and their intersection with the dimensions of gender, race and ethnicity.

15. The meeting had four goals: (a) to analyse the situation of indigenous and Afro-descendent women in Latin America; (b) to analyse methodologies of poverty measurement; (c) to review poverty reduction programmes and policies in four countries of the region (Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala and Paraguay) to determine whether or not they included the gender, race and ethnicity dimensions; and (d) to present an overview of policies carried out in the countries from the perspective of gender, race and ethnicity.

16. The following agenda items were discussed at the meeting: (a) the situation of indigenous and Afro-descendent women: analysis of the social and economic status of indigenous and Afro-descendent women in comparison to that of men; (b) methodologies for measuring poverty: analysis of methodologies used to measure poverty and challenges for disaggregating the dimensions of gender, race and ethnicity; (c) UNIFEM studies and experiences in Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala and Paraguay; and (d) monitoring and assessment of national policies, programmes and experiences in relation to poverty reduction.

17. The following international meetings organized by CELADE — Population Division of ECLAC included presentations concerning indigenous peoples. The institution's view is that indigenous issues should not be confined to specific meetings, but should be mainstreamed throughout its work.

18. An expert meeting on population, inequalities and human rights, organized in cooperation with the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), was held in Santiago, Chile, on 26 and 27 October 2006. In a panel discussion on "Enforceability of human rights: mechanisms and indicators", the Chilean Government's Observatory of Indigenous Peoples' Rights gave a presentation on the enforceability of human rights from the perspective of indigenous peoples.

19. An expert meeting on population and poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago on 14 and 15 November 2006. In a panel discussion on special population groups and poverty alleviation policies, CELADE introduced a paper on the population dynamics and living conditions of the indigenous population.

20. ECLAC sponsored a number of international meetings relating to indigenous peoples, as described below.

21. The seventh International Meeting on Gender Statistics in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, organized by UNIFEM, was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 19 to 21 September 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange experiences and discuss conceptual and methodological advances, as well as progress made in analysing and using gender statistics and indicators in

public policies. In addition to discussing relevant aspects of the Millennium Development Goals, the participants in this meeting placed particular emphasis on the issues of gender violence, indigenous populations and time use. CELADE presented the paper "Indigenous peoples of Latin America: recognition and statistical visibility".

22. An international seminar on globalization, human rights and indigenous peoples, organized by the Observatory of Indigenous Peoples' Rights, was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago on 28 and 29 November 2006. ECLAC participated by giving presentations at the opening meeting and in the panel discussion on water rights of indigenous peoples and rural communities in Andean countries. Other panel discussions were held on the globalization of human rights and indigenous peoples; the impact of economic globalization on the rights of indigenous peoples; economic, social and cultural rights, the solidarity-based economy and indigenous peoples; mechanisms for protecting the rights of indigenous peoples: the case of the inter-American human rights system; and social responsibility, human rights and indigenous peoples.

23. CELADE — Population Division of ECLAC also participated in a number of meetings relating to indigenous peoples, as described below.

24. At the International Expert Group Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, Indigenous Participation and Good Governance, held by the Permanent Forum in New York from 11 to 13 January 2007, CELADE contributed a paper on steps towards the fuller participation of Latin America's indigenous peoples in the production of information and the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals.

25. For the International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the University of Córdoba and held in Córdoba, Argentina, from 20 to 24 February 2006, CELADE prepared and introduced a paper entitled "Indigenous households and families in Bolivia, Chile and Panama: selected results and their contribution to improving the collection of census information". This document will be published in the ECLAC *Notas de población* series in 2007.

26. At a meeting to establish the subsidiary network on development with identity, organized by the Indigenous Fund and held in Quito on 6 and 7 July 2006, CELADE gave a presentation on the progress of the system of sociodemographic indicators and invited the indigenous participants to make comments for incorporation into the system.

27. At the seventh General Assembly of the Indigenous Fund, held in Antigua, Guatemala, on 13 and 14 September 2006, CELADE gave a presentation on the progress of the system of sociodemographic indicators.

28. At the expert meeting "Gender, poverty, race, ethnicity: the situation in Latin America", organized by ECLAC-UNIFEM and held in Santiago, Chile, on 7 and 8 November 2006, CELADE gave a presentation on indigenous women and poverty in Latin America.

29. The ECLAC Agricultural Development Unit and Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division obtained financing to enable three people to attend the side event to be held in connection with the meeting of the Committee for the Review of

the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, which will take place in Buenos Aires the week of 19-23 March 2007. The financing was obtained through the Convention's Global Mechanism and will be used to fund, inter alia, the participation of a representative of Aymaras Without Borders. The side event is intended to serve as a forum for showing the participants in the Committee (representatives of Governments, international agencies, donors, academia and civil society) what actions are being taken by some of the large mining companies involved in the Subregional Action Programme for the Sustainable Development of the Puna Americana (Andean highlands) to mitigate or reverse the environmental damage caused by mining (water, wetlands, highland wetlands, reforestation), as well as the work they are doing with and for the local population, which, in the area covered by the Programme, is primarily indigenous.

30. The Agricultural Development Unit and the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division have already held two seminars at ECLAC headquarters with the participation of large mining companies and their associated trade unions in Chile (Mining Council, National Mining Corporation), as well as civil society representatives from the area covered by the Programme and environmental groups, to open a dialogue on these issues. Moreover, there have been a number of meetings between ECLAC and mining companies to organize these events and the side event at the meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

III. Obstacles to the implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations

31. The primary constraint is financial. The resources used for the main activities relating to indigenous issues have been provided through extrabudgetary financing made available to ECLAC. The incorporation of indigenous issues into the CELADE-UNFPA work programme represented a step forward, as it has made additional funds available for activities such as the preparation of the aforementioned chapter of the *Social Panorama*.

32. In relation to the system of sociodemographic indicators, and bearing in mind that any system of indicators can be improved upon and should be seen as a process, it is essential to hold workshops with indigenous peoples, both to disseminate the system and provide training in its use and to obtain feedback for the system in order to improve the contextual interpretations and gradually incorporate new indicators, in line with the proposals put forward by the Permanent Forum and with international agreements on this subject. Thus far, no resources have been made available for this purpose.

IV. Conferences and meetings scheduled for 2007-2008

33. Under the joint PAHO-ECLAC/CELADE project "An ethnic approach to sources of health data: experiences in the Mapuche area of the southern corridor of Argentina and Chile. Recommendations for their future development in the context of the Americas", two meetings are envisaged. The first, to be held on 18 and 19 April 2007, is a meeting with government agencies and local and national

organizations representing the Mapuche community of Argentina and Chile for the purpose of discussing an assessment of the current situation and formulating recommendations for the inclusion of the issue in national sources of information on the population's health (particularly vital statistics and morbidity records). The second meeting, to be held in May 2007, has similar objectives, but will be open to participation by other Latin American countries.

34. An expert meeting, organized by CELADE in collaboration with PAHO, on the progress made with respect to health policies and programmes for indigenous peoples in Latin America since the International Decade will be held from 3 to 5 May 2007. The general aim of the meeting is to debate and reflect on the progress made with respect to health policies and programmes for indigenous peoples, the constitutional recognition of their rights and the difficulties encountered in ensuring the exercise of those rights; to exchange and disseminate experiences and lessons learned on the subject; and to make recommendations and proposals.

35. The regular programme of work of CELADE includes an expert meeting (date to be determined) to consider the inclusion of emerging issues, including indigenous peoples, in the 2010 round of population censuses.

36. CELADE is preparing three papers for presentation at an expert meeting on urban indigenous people and migration, organized by the Permanent Forum and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), to be held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago from 27 to 29 March 2007. The papers concern the spatial distribution of Latin America's indigenous peoples, internal migration and the living conditions of urban indigenous people in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals.

Annex

Example of the "meta-information" included in the sociodemographic system on indigenous populations and peoples of Latin America

Indicator: Ageing index.

Definition: Expresses the relationship between the number of older persons and the number of children and young people.

Method of calculation: The number of people aged 65 or over divided by the number of people under 15, multiplied by 100.

Disaggregation: Urban-rural.

Statistical interpretation: A value of 10 means that there are 10 older persons (aged 65 or over) for every 100 children and young people (under the age of 15).

Contextual interpretation and relevance: In Western society, old age is acknowledged to be a multidimensional phenomenon, but it is usually defined in terms of age limits. Among indigenous peoples, what distinguishes old age is the entry into a new stage of the life cycle, and chronological limits become meaningless; at most, it may be possible to establish a boundary associated with the loss of physiological capacities or the inability to carry out tasks for the material reproduction of the family and community. An individual's status and social role may increase as he or she "ages", since older persons are repositories of the wisdom and collective memory that must be transmitted to the young in order to ensure the cultural reproduction of the group or people in question. Consequently, ageing should be interpreted not in "negative" terms, but rather in terms of cultural continuity.

Observations: According to the conventional interpretation, this indicator is associated with intergenerational transfers, and a systematic increase in its value implies that the State must invest more in elder-oriented health care and social security, the benefits of which should not be denied to indigenous peoples.

Additional notes on the processing of census data: Indigenous/non-indigenous status was determined on the basis of various criteria, which are available for consultation. Urban or rural residency was determined on the basis of criteria supplied by each country, which are also available for consultation.

Mexico and Panama: The population of unknown age was distributed proportionally.

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica and Mexico: The population of unknown ethnicity was not included.

Bolivia and Mexico: The data are for the population living in occupied private dwellings.

Brazil and Mexico: The databases used were for population samples. For Brazil, expanded figures were rounded to the nearest whole number (downward when the fraction was less than 0.5, upward when the fraction was 0.5 or greater).

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Costa Rica and Paraguay: These countries carry out indigenous censuses (of territories or communities) in parallel with the general population census. The databases used consisted of integrated information collected in both censuses, where possible.

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Human rights: dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its fifth session and addressed directly to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). It also refers to the activities undertaken by OHCHR in 2006 that are relevant to the work of the Permanent Forum. OHCHR draws particular attention to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights submitted to the Human Rights Council at its fourth session, which describes all the activities carried out under the auspices of OHCHR in 2006 to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples. The annex to the report contains the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Appeal, the outcome of the Regional Seminar on indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and in initial contact of the Amazonian Basin and El Chaco, which took place from 20 to 22 November 2006 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

* E/C.19/2007/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its fifth session and addressed directly to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and to the human rights mechanisms for which the latter functions as secretariat. It also gives details of activities carried out to follow up other recommendations made by the Permanent Forum at its second, third and fourth sessions.

II. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addressed to the Human Rights Council

2. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues makes a number of recommendations concerning activities to be undertaken by the Human Rights Council. Those recommendations were transmitted to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council, which took note of them for further consideration.

3. It will not be possible to address some of the recommendations (paras. 67, 72 and 79) before the mandate review, which, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 establishing the Human Rights Council, will take place during the Council's first year of operation. The Human Rights Council will consider those issues during the first half of 2007. Additional information will be submitted to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its seventh session.*

4. Paragraph 80 contains a recommendation to the effect that, in the course of a universal periodic review, the situation of indigenous peoples of a country under consideration should also be examined. However, on the date of submission of the present report, the Human Rights Council had not yet established the relevant mechanism for conducting the aforementioned universal periodic review, and that issue will therefore be considered during the first half of 2007. At its special sessions in 2006, the Human Rights Council discussed the urgent situations in Palestine, Lebanon and the Sudan.

5. At its first session, the Human Rights Council adopted, by a large majority, resolution 12, by which it adopted the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and recommended its adoption to the General Assembly. The Council adopted the draft in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 68 of the report on the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which stipulates that the draft declaration should be adopted without amendments. However, the final version of the draft declaration must still be adopted by the General Assembly.

A. Treaty bodies

6. In the reports on its various sessions, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has made recommendations designed to ensure that the human rights system devotes particular attention to the situation of indigenous peoples.

* E/C.19/2007/3/Add.2.

7. In recent years, the treaty bodies have mainstreamed indigenous issues into their work, and particular attention has been devoted to indigenous peoples both in recent general comments and during the periodic reviews of the situation in Member States. Accordingly, when the various committees consider the situation in States with indigenous populations, special attention is paid to their situation and specific reference is made to them. More information about the concluding comments on the various country reports can be found in the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted to the Human Rights Council at its fourth session.

8. In paragraph 77 of the report on its fifth session, the Permanent Forum recommends that human rights treaty bodies should initiate dialogue with indigenous peoples' organizations with a view to preparing general comments relevant to indigenous peoples. That recommendation was transmitted to the secretariats of the various treaty bodies, which transmitted it to their members for consideration. In 2006, the Committee on the Rights of the Child drafted a general comment on the rights of children with disabilities, which contains several references to indigenous children. The general comment on children's rights in juvenile justice, drafted in 2007, also mentions indigenous children.

9. Paragraph 75 of the report recommends examining the plight of indigenous peoples from French Polynesia, Guam and the Marshall Islands who have been victims of the effects of nuclear testing in the region. That recommendation was transmitted to the secretariats of the various treaty bodies, which transmitted it to their members.

10. Paragraph 78 recommends that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should elaborate a general comment on discrimination in housing, taking into account the situation of indigenous peoples. That recommendation was transmitted to the secretariat of the Committee, which, in turn, transmitted it to the Committee members. Additional information will be provided to the Permanent Forum at its seventh session.

11. Paragraph 91 of the report refers specifically to a possible general comment of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and points to the need to involve representatives of indigenous peoples in the drafting process. The Committee is currently preparing a final draft. The subgroup on indigenous children and youth, which is composed of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and has more than 40 members from all continents, participated in that process. The sole aim of the subgroup is to study the rights of indigenous children, and indigenous peoples' organizations take an active part in its work. Drafting the general comment is an open process, and interested individuals and institutions may contact the subgroup directly to request or provide information. OHCHR will provide relevant details to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its seventh session.

B. Special procedures of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[1]

12. In paragraph 73 of the report on its fourth session, the Permanent Forum recommended that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and

[1] For additional information on the activities carried out under the special procedures in 2006, see the OHCHR report to the Human Rights Council in 2007 and the OHCHR web page, where the reports of all the special procedures of the Human Rights Council may be found.

fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples should pay special attention to isolated indigenous peoples.

13. The Special Rapporteur's report on his mission to Ecuador (A/HRC/4/32/Add.2) assesses the situation of the country's isolated indigenous peoples. In addition, in the thematic report of 2007, which examines the trends and challenges concerning the protection of the rignts of indigenous peoples, the Special Rapporteur pays special attention to the situation of isolated peoples, endorsing many of the recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and in Initial Contact of the Amazonian Basin and El Chaco.

14. Paragraph 51 of the report on the fifth session of the Permanent Forum recommends that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, should participate in the sessions of the Permanent Forum. This recommendation was transmitted to the Special Rapporteurs, who are expected to participate in the current session of the Permanent Forum.

15. Indigenous issues have been mainstreamed into the work of many of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Special Rapporteurs hold meetings with indigenous organizations while on mission to countries with an indigenous population and incorporate the situation of indigenous peoples into their annual reports. For example, during his mission to Australia in 2006, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing held consultations with the representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and included an entire section on the situation of these communities in the mission report.

16. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, sent a questionnaire on forced marriage to organizations of indigenous peoples with a view to gathering information, and the annual report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women examines the intersections between violence against women and culture. Indigenous representatives participated in the seminars preceding the reports, in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraphs 45 and 48 of the report of the third session of the Permanent Forum. The Special Rapporteur's thematic report reproduces the discussions of those seminars and includes specific recommendations on the recognition of the rights of indigenous women in the declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. The reports on her missions to Mexico and Guatemala also include a section entitled "Violence against indigenous women".

17. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders has intervened in several cases concerning threats against or persecution of leaders of indigenous communities or their support organizations, and considers indigenous claims to be a way of defending human rights. The Special Representative's annual report to the fourth session of the Human Rights Council gives an account of specific situations concerning indigenous defenders.

C. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

18. In paragraph 83 of the report on the fifth session, the Permanent Forum recommended that effective measures should be taken to protect the rights of

indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation. In paragraph 73 of the report on the fourth session, it had recommended that the situation of these peoples should be the theme of an international meeting, and this recommendation was reiterated in the report on the fifth session. A Regional Seminar on Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and in Initial Contact of the Amazonian Basin and El Chaco was jointly organized by OHCHR, the Vice-Ministry of Lands of the Government of Bolivia, the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs and the Confederacy of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia and was funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, the Danish International Development Agency and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation. This seminar was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 20 to 22 November 2006. The Santa Cruz appeal, which was agreed on by all participants in the meeting (representatives of Governments and indigenous organizations, international organizations and experts), is included in the annex to this report. In addition, the full report of this seminar contained in document E/C.19/2007/CRP.1, which includes a list of participants and the programme, will be submitted to the Permanent Forum.

19. In paragraphs 85 and 108 of the report on the fifth session, the Permanent Forum makes two recommendations to OHCHR concerning activities in Africa. OHCHR is preparing this plan of action, which will be coordinated by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Commission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa. Consultations with African organizations are planned for the first half of 2007 as well as activities to promote dialogue between indigenous representatives and States with respect to the declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. These activities also respond to the recommendation made in paragraph 93 of the report on the second session of the Permanent Forum. Additional information will be provided at the seventh session of the Permanent Forum.

20. In paragraph 112 of the report on the fifth session, the Permanent Forum recommends that the international community should pay special attention to the situation of the Batwa people and should support the San community. In 2006, OHCHR supported the Government of the Republic of the Congo in drafting a law on the promotion and protection of indigenous rights. If adopted, this law would become the standard for the rights of indigenous peoples in Africa and would benefit the country's Batwa, Baka, Baaka and Bacongo communities. In addition, three representatives of communities pejoratively known as pygmies, including one Batwa, participated in the OHCHR fellowship programme. Lastly, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples has sent communications to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of Botswana concerning allegations of violations of the rights of the Batwa and San peoples.

21. Paragraph 89 of the Permanent Forum's report on its fifth session recommends that international organizations, inter alia, should hold seminars on the implementation of the Special Rapporteur's recommendations. The OHCHR Andean Project, the United Nations Children's Fund Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office and the United Nations Development Fund for Women have started work on a regional study in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia on follow-up of the Special Rapporteur's thematic recommendations. The results of this study will be submitted to the seventh session of the Permanent Forum. Similarly, the OHCHR Andean Project held meetings in Ecuador in 2006 and has published a booklet on the Special

Rapporteur's mandate which has been distributed among Ecuadorian indigenous organizations.

22. In paragraphs 37 and 65 of the report on its fourth session, the Permanent Forum recommended that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and OHCHR should analyse the housing situation of the world's indigenous peoples and recommended the holding of an expert seminar on the rights of indigenous peoples to adequate housing. This seminar, organized by UN-HABITAT, OHCHR and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum and funded by the Government of Canada, is to be held in March 2007, and additional information will be provided during the current session of the Permanent Forum.

23. In paragraph 62 of the report on its fourth session, the Permanent Forum recommended that the violation of the human rights of indigenous peoples and the militarization of indigenous lands should be analysed on an urgent basis. In addition, paragraph 50 of the report of the third session of the Permanent Forum recommends that studies should be undertaken on the effects of armed conflicts on indigenous peoples, especially women and children. This issue was discussed at the twenty-fourth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, whose main theme was the "Utilization of indigenous peoples' lands by non-indigenous authorities, groups or individuals for military purposes". Part of the session was specifically devoted to discussing the effects on women and children in armed conflicts. OHCHR prepared a document for this meeting (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2006/2). The report on the session is contained in document A/HRC/Sub.1/58/22.

24. In the report on its third session, the Permanent Forum recommended that OHCHR should submit an assessment of the implementation of the Durban Programme of Action with respect to indigenous peoples and indigenous women in particular to the sixth session of the Permanent Forum in 2007. OHCHR organized a regional conference of the Americas on progress and challenges in implementing the Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Brasilia from 26 to 28 July 2006. The Conference was held in follow-up to the Durban Programme of Action and gave special attention to the situation of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women.

25. Paragraphs 20, 37 and 38 of the report on the third session of the Permanent Forum recommend, inter alia, exploring the protection, use and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples with respect to their knowledge (including traditional knowledge) and the development of guidelines on the heritage of indigenous peoples. The Working Group on Indigenous Populations is developing guidelines on the protection and use of the heritage of indigenous peoples, including their traditional knowledge. These draft guidelines are contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2006/5.

26. In paragraph 49 of the report on its third session, the Permanent Forum called on OHCHR to elaborate technical cooperation programmes to assist in the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples following his visits to Colombia, Chile and Guatemala. Regional and local OHCHR offices have taken significant steps to follow up the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur in these countries, in particular the implementation of an important project in

Guatemala and Mexico. The report of the Special Rapporteur contained in A/HRC/4/32/Add.4 offers extensive information on the activities regarding best practices carried out to implement the recommendations contained in the annual reports of the Special Rapporteur.

27. In paragraph 107 of the report on its third session, the Permanent Forum recommended that OHCHR indigenous fellows should participate in the sessions of the Forum and that they should be provided time for training at the secretariat of the Forum. Ten indigenous fellows in the English- and Spanish-speaking programmes participated in the fifth session of the Permanent Forum in 2006. The Russian- and French-speaking programmes did not participate in the session since those programmes tend to be held in the second half of the year. Thanks to collaboration with the University of Deusto, the Spanish-speaking programme conducted a training session at the secretariat of the Forum. Owing to financial limitations, the English-speaking programme could not conduct the training and requests the Permanent Forum to help fund such training in the future.

28. In paragraph 51 of the report on its second session, the Forum recommended that OHCHR organize a technical workshop on extractive industries. The principal theme of the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations will be "The impact of private sector initiatives on indigenous peoples' rights", and extractive industries will undoubtedly be a central issue. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises convened a regional consultation in Colombia on 18 and 19 January 2007. One of the central themes of the regional consultation was the rights of indigenous peoples, and the discussions included extractive industries and their impact on indigenous peoples.

29. In the same report the Permanent Forum recommended that OHCHR organize activities in Asia and Africa. With respect to Asia, OHCHR organized training for indigenous communities in Cambodia in 2006, and in February 2007 it organized, jointly with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the NGO Forum on Cambodia, a workshop on "Indigenous peoples and access to land in Cambodia", in which the Special Rapporteur participated.

III. Information on other measures taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to protect the rights of indigenous peoples

30. In addition to its follow-up of the Permanent Forum's recommendations, OHCHR, the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedure mandate-holders have taken a significant number of measures to protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples. The information is available in the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on indigenous issues to the Human Rights Council contained in A/HRC/4/77.

IV. Information on the follow-up to the recommendations set out in the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

31. Paragraphs 43-48 of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade establish the steps to be taken at the international level in the area of human rights.

32. Paragraph 43 calls for the adoption of the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. As previously mentioned, the declaration was adopted by the Human Rights Council at its first session.

33. Paragraph 44 calls for work to be focused on the implementation of existing international standards and policies. OHCHR has taken a number of measures aimed at promoting the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur. The information is contained in annex 4 of the report of the Special Rapporteur (A/HRC/4/32/Add.4). However, future measures to promote their implementation of the recommendations are necessary.

34. Paragraph 45 calls for the establishment of a global mechanism to monitor the situation of indigenous peoples in isolation. The recommendation was transmitted to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council. However, the Regional Seminar on Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and in Initial Contact of the Amazonian Basin and El Chaco represented progress in highlighting their situation.

35. In paragraph 46 human rights mechanisms are invited to continue or start to specifically address indigenous peoples within their mandates and to share their reports with the Permanent Forum. Human rights mechanisms, both the human rights treaty bodies and special mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, continue to examine the situation of indigenous peoples. Additional information is available in the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on indigenous issues to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/4/77).

36. Paragraph 47 states, inter alia, the need to strengthen the Indigenous Fellowship Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to establish culturally appropriate materials. The fourth, Russian-speaking programme of the fellowship was strengthened in 2006. The OHCHR Andean programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), conducted a pilot fellowship programme in which an Ecuadorian fellow from the Spanish-speaking programme was granted an additional three-month internship in the United Nations system in Ecuador. In addition, in 2006 the Human Rights Institute of the University of Deusto, a partner in the Spanish-speaking fellowship programme, published a manual on indigenous peoples' human rights, which targets the training of future fellows.

37. Finally, paragraph 48 requests cooperation from the Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. OHCHR is beginning to formulate a programme of activities with the Working Group. Additional information will be provided at the seventh session of the Forum.

V. Information on the special theme of the sixth session of the Forum

38. The human rights mechanisms for which OHCHR acts as secretariat have issued a number of documents that could be taken into consideration by the Permanent Forum in its deliberations. These documents include:

(a) Report on the expert seminar on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources and their relationship to land (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2006/3);

(b) Indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources. Final report of the Special Rapporteur, Erica-Irene A. Daes (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/30 and Add.1);

(c) Indigenous peoples and their relationship to land (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/21) dated 11 June 2001;

(d) Report of the Expert Seminar on Practical Experiences Regarding Indigenous Land Rights and Claims (Whitehorse, Canada, 24-28 March 1996) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1996/6 and Add.1).

39. The human rights treaty bodies have issued general comments analysing the issue of the indigenous peoples' land rights. The general comments are:

(a) Human Rights Committee: General Comment No. 27 on freedom of movement (art. 12) and General Comment No. 23 on minority rights (art. 27);

(b) Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: General Recommendation XXIII on the rights of indigenous peoples and General Recommendation XXIV concerning article 1, paragraph 1, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

40. Furthermore, substantial consideration has been given to the issue of lands and territories of indigenous peoples in the treaty bodies' general observations on States' reports under human rights treaties.

Annex

Santa Cruz de la Sierra Appeal

This Seminar, held in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 20 to 22 November 2006, was attended by representatives of States, international agencies, public institutions, indigenous peoples' organizations and experts. The meeting is a step forward in recognition and discussion of the indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact of Latin America; its purpose is to promote the application of public policies and international agreements that protect the rights of these peoples.

The issue of the nearly 200 indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact of the Amazonian Basin and El Chaco, divided among seven countries, has been a topic of discussion at the international and national levels in recent years. The 1971 Declaration of Barbados; the 1981 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Declaration on ethnocide, known as the Declaration of San José; the resolution adopted by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in Bangkok in 2004; the 2005 and 2006 reports of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples; the problem's inclusion in the most recent version (2005) of the Organization of American States (OAS) draft American declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples; and the 2005 Declaration of Belem are a significant part of consideration of the topic and reiterate the need to give priority to this question. Indigenous peoples' organizations have also played an important role by incorporating into their agendas the situation of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact, implementing follow-up activities and developing proposals for their protection.

The critical situation and extreme vulnerability of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact in exercising their human rights, particularly the right to life, requires the urgent adoption of measures and policies that respond effectively to their need for protection.

For all these reasons, the participants in the Santa Cruz Seminar agreed to urge States to adopt and implement specific public policies granting priority attention to indigenous peoples within the framework of the following analysis, principles and recommendations, which were adopted by consensus in plenary session.

Analysis

The issue of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact is closely linked to the specific situation of each of these peoples. States have addressed this situation by taking protective measures which, although of limited scope, must be taken into consideration when developing and preparing specific policies in the future.

Particularly relevant is the experience of Brazil, which has specific regulations and institutions for the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation. Peru, for its part, recently adopted a specific law on indigenous peoples, although the corresponding regulations have not yet been drawn up. Peruvian indigenous peoples, their organizations, NGOs and experts have had serious reservations concerning the law's appropriateness to the problems of indigenous peoples in isolation and have

even taken the view that it might increase their vulnerability. Peru has also developed a set of proposed health standards for the protection and care of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact. Bolivia recently granted recognition to the Toromona people's reserve, although the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia (CIDOB) did not participate in that process. In 1999, Ecuador created a reserve for indigenous peoples in isolation, although its boundaries have yet to be established. Venezuela has adopted legislation on the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly with regard to the demarcation of, and guarantees concerning, the habitats, lands and territories of their communities, and has established health plans and programmes in order to address the situation of indigenous peoples in initial contact. In Paraguay, there has been significant progress in setting up round tables on the issue of indigenous peoples and Ayoreo communities in isolation and in initial contact.

Indigenous peoples' organizations have also been developing proposals for promoting respect for, and protection of, the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact. These organizations have lobbied national Governments for the amendment of laws that affect the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact and have cooperated in the creation of links between the Governments of different countries; Peruvian indigenous peoples' organizations have taken such action with respect to Brazil's National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) and the Peruvian State institutions involved in addressing this issue.

In the light of this situation, and in support and follow-up to the work of indigenous peoples' organizations on this matter, the aforementioned forums have been established at the international level in order to highlight the situation of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact, and proposals for their protection have been developed.[1]

However, these activities have proved insufficient in addressing the special vulnerability of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact. Generally speaking, there is a lack of specific national regulatory and institutional frameworks giving priority to respect for, and protection of, these peoples. States of the region have not adopted legislation that recognizes the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples in isolation; other interests still take precedence. Thus, the rights of these peoples, particularly in respect of their lands and territories, are still ignored and, as a result, extraction companies are granted the right to exploit their land and regulations that pose a serious threat to their survival are put in place.

Moreover, the few existing regulations (in Brazil and Peru) have not been fully implemented. Most countries have not established specific institutions to protect the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact; they have insufficient economic resources and few specialized staff able to address the situation of these peoples. In addition, most States have not established specific programmes or adequate action strategies to ensure the physical, social and territorial integrity of indigenous peoples in isolation, based on the principle that their characteristic

[1] Of particular importance is the fact that the existence of indigenous peoples in isolation and the need to protect them are recognized in the working draft of the American declaration, prepared at Guatemala City in 2005, and in the work begun by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples of the Human Rights Council and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

lifestyles should be maintained; in some cases, States have even violated this right or allowed it to be violated.

This lack of regulations and institutions has facilitated the arrival of extraction, timber and mining companies; religious entities that seek to make contact with and to convert groups in initial contact; and other social actors in the lands of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact, with consequences that threaten their existence, including epidemics and deaths. The difficulty of bringing such cases of rights violation before the courts has led to situations of impunity.

In the case of indigenous peoples in initial contact, this situation has also led to destruction of their traditional production system and consequently to changes in their eating habits, promoted a more rapid shift to a sedentary lifestyle and sped up the aggressive introduction of assistance models that totally ignore their culture and violate their right to self-determination.

At the regional and international levels, there is a general lack of policies that focus specifically on the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact. Of particular relevance is the lack of agreements, coordination and joint programmes between neighbouring States.

In addition, broad sectors of civil society are unaware of and uninterested in the situation of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

Principles

In order to address this situation, the participants in this Regional Seminar on indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and in initial contact of the Amazonian Basin and El Chaco are considering the following general principles. In the light of their vulnerable situation, the time factor must be taken into account and, for this reason, urgent measures, complemented by additional short-, medium- and long-term measures, must be taken.

In order to be effective, all these measures should:

- Specifically acknowledge the role of indigenous peoples, particularly in the development of programmes aimed specifically at the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact;
- Recognize the contribution of the anthropologists, experts and scientists whose work has not violated the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact;
- Recognize States' duty and responsibility to protect and guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact; and
- Affirm the importance of cooperation at all levels, in coordination with indigenous peoples' organizations that have undertaken to defend and protect indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

Furthermore, all these actions should be taken bearing fully in mind:

- Absolute respect for human rights;
- The situation of extreme urgency and emergency, and of potential genocide and ethnocide, of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact;

- The "no-contact" principle; and
- Recognition that isolation is the result of indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and, in the majority of cases, is a consequence of aggression suffered in the past.

It must be stressed that the term "indigenous peoples in isolation" is currently under discussion by experts and indigenous peoples' organizations and that there is no consensus as to whether it adequately reflects the indigenous peoples' situation.

Lastly, positive experiences should be highlighted and encouraged.

Recommendations

The following proposals are based on those principles.

General policy

1. State and non-State bodies must recognize and reaffirm the existence of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

2. The protection of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact must be declared a high priority issue on the agendas of States and international human rights bodies.

3. States must accept their responsibility to protect indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact from outside aggression.

4. All national and international legal, administrative and operational mechanisms that guarantee respect for the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact must be strengthened. For that purpose, there must be consultation and participation of indigenous organizations.

5. Observance of existing national and international laws guaranteeing the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact should be strengthened, with particular support for the adoption of the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, including the possibility of incorporating specific articles, and the OAS American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Likewise, the implementation and observance of ILO Convention No. 169 Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries should be strengthened. It must be utilized and taken into consideration in the establishment of specific policies.

6. In order to achieve this protection, it is necessary to reinforce the recognition of such specific rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact as the right to self-determination, to their own territory, culture and way of life and to development.

7. Legal instruments must be created (local, regional, national and international) that provide for appropriate and effective protections, especially intended to:

(a) Strengthen the legal recognition of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact;

(b) Establish immediate precautionary measures to avoid current aggressions as well as the application, from the outset and in an appropriate and effective

manner, of mechanisms for immediate protection, including restrictions on use of and access to their lands;

(c) Establish definitive measures of protection.

Contingency measures and health

8. The State sectors involved must establish measures and plans for prevention, contingency and impact mitigation, in the event of undesired contact that could affect indigenous peoples in isolation.

9. States must implement public policies and health strategies aimed at peoples in isolation which include measures for disease prevention to be applied in the populated areas surrounding their territories, post-contact emergency medical care and food security plans in cases where recently contacted populations are affected by epidemics and are unable to carry out their subsistence activities.

10. Public policies and health protection strategies aimed at peoples in initial contact must be implemented which take into account measures for disease prevention, vaccination, sanitation and environmental education.

Non-contact, lands and territories

11. States must respect and ensure respect for the principle of non-contact and prohibit undesired contact. Indigenous peoples in isolation must be the ones to decide freely and voluntarily whether or not to establish contact with members of the surrounding society.

12. Sanctions, including criminal penalties, must be established for violation of the principle of non-contact.

13. Along those lines, the criminal codes of the countries in the region must be amended for the purpose of establishing prison sentences for those who, through forced and undesired contact, endanger the territory, life and integrity of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

14. The territories inhabited and exploited by indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact must be delimited and title granted to those peoples, in accordance with the respective national and international laws. The delimitation and granting of title for these lands must include all territories in which indigenous peoples live or travel and the adjacent buffer zones, and special and effective protection measures must be implemented.

15. In cases where nature and environmental conservation parks or other protected areas have been established, title to those territories/lands, in accordance with respective national legislation, should be granted to the indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

16. The inviolability of their territories must be established, understood to mean the granting of title for lands and territories to the indigenous peoples in isolation and the commitment by the State to avoid any activity of any type whatsoever that might endanger their survival, with all possible legal and political instruments available in each country and on the basis of each situation.

17. Any contracts for mining concessions superimposed on the territories of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact must be prohibited and

immediately revoked, and outsiders found in those territories must be relocated to other areas.

18. Likewise, public works and colonization activities affecting the territories of isolated and initial contact indigenous peoples must be suspended.

19. Tourism programmes and initiatives that affect the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact must be suspended.

20. Missionary activities and other unsupervised activities seeking contact in the lands of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact must be expressly prohibited.

21. In general, entry of outsiders into those territories must be prohibited.

22. The role of the neighbouring indigenous communities should be strengthened for the defence and protection of the territories inhabited by indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

23. Socio-economic alternatives must be created for the population resettled to other areas or affected by the special protection which should be provided for the territories of the indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact and the adjacent buffer zones.

24. Commissions for the monitoring and control of the territories of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact must be established, with the participation of indigenous peoples' organizations.

25. Bad intervention practices in the territories of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact should be identified and punished.

Institutionalization and follow-up mechanisms

26. Specific institutions for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact must be established.

27. A system of follow-up must be implemented with the participation of indigenous organizations, civil society and international organizations, with a particular focus on:

(a) Dissemination of information, studying the possibility of establishing centres for collection and dissemination of information at the national and international level;

(b) Physical monitoring of the borders of the lands and territories of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact;

(c) Establishment of a monitoring and early warning system for violations of their rights, from a perspective of protection of human rights;

(d) All follow-up programmes must ensure the sustainability of the measures taken.

28. The role of the Attorney-General's Office and the Ombudsman must be strengthened, with the objective of monitoring the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

29. Likewise, the establishment of pilot programmes for follow-up should be promoted in areas adjoining the territories of isolated indigenous peoples and the corresponding buffer zones.

30. A standing committee made up of the State and indigenous representatives should be established in each country, with the support of civil society, in order to set priorities for actions to be conducted in this field; indigenous organizations should play a key role in the Committee's work.

31. In order to avoid overlap among the decisions and measures implemented by different governmental bodies, coordination mechanisms should be established.

32. It is decided to establish a commission of indigenous peoples for the protection and defence of the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

Raising awareness

33. States, in cooperation with OHCHR, indigenous organizations and other relevant actors with experience in the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact, should provide training on the rights of such peoples to the executive, legislative and judicial branches, as well as to persons working in the field.

34. States, in cooperation with OHCHR, indigenous organizations and other relevant actors with experience in the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact, should establish guidelines or a list of "do's and don'ts" regarding such peoples intended for governmental actors and civil society.

35. An appeal should be channelled through United Nations mechanisms, especially the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, calling on countries to carry out priority actions and to promote within the United Nations system knowledge of the situation of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact and the establishment of specific measures of protection.

36. Experts are requested to issue a publication containing basic information on those peoples.

37. Awareness should be raised among the general population of the problems of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact and the means to protect them, including ethno-environmental education. The communications media, both the specialized and mass media, should be used, taking care that the information presented does not violate the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation.

Activities in the international sphere

General concepts:

38. The international human rights systems should establish flexible and efficient mechanisms for the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

39. The activities of international organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations must be harmonized for adequate protection of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

Cooperation in the regional sphere

40. Bi-national, regional and international policies must be designed to guarantee protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact. At the bi-national level, special recognition should be given to the trans-border nature of many peoples.

41. Protection strategies for trans-border peoples must be established, with the participation of States and civil society, especially indigenous peoples' organizations.

42. The topic of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact is recommended for inclusion on the agendas of such regional bodies as ACTO, CAN, OAS, MERCOSUR, etc. and projects aimed at their protection should be created with the participation of indigenous peoples.

43. Requests for precautionary measures under the inter-American human rights system should be encouraged, as in the case of Ecuador.

International agencies

44. The Permanent Forum is urged to give special attention to the problem of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact in the context of land territorial rights.

45. The establishment of a specific Special Rapporteur within the United Nations system is proposed, to promote the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact and to combat impunity by invoking the crime of genocide.

46. It is suggested that ILO should update Convention No. 169 or incorporate an annex to it and that the Human Rights Council and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations should draft an international convention or instrument based on the principles contained herein for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

47. The International Committee of the Red Cross should establish specific programmes to care for indigenous peoples in initial contact.

Cooperation agencies

48. Direct coordination mechanisms should be established between cooperation agencies and national organizations in every country where indigenous peoples live in order to protect indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

49. It is necessary to identify cooperation agencies for funding protection activities and establishing information mechanisms, such as databases.

Follow-up to the seminar

50. Given the urgency of the conditions in which in isolation and in initial contact indigenous peoples are living, it is suggested that the organizers should hold another meeting within approximately 12 months to follow up the initiatives identified in Santa Cruz.

All actors, in their respective roles, should cooperate in conducting these activities.

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

I. **United Nations Population Fund**

II. **United Nations system in Ecuador**

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I. United Nations Population Fund

Summary

The present report provides information on the work of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with indigenous peoples. The report also gives information on the status of implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum. For several years, UNFPA has been promoting a culturally sensitive and human-rights-based approach to its work on the reproductive rights of indigenous peoples. Initiatives and projects have been developed and are being implemented in a number of countries. UNFPA country teams have been particularly active in engaging indigenous women and other community actors in the project implementation processes and some country teams play a lead role in highlighting indigenous issues as cross-cutting issues in the United Nations country teams' work.

A. Introduction

1. For several years, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been training its staff to use a cultural perspective in its work and has developed resource materials to facilitate and mainstream a cultural perspective in its development efforts. UNFPA acknowledges that despite the lack of income and material goods, many indigenous communities have considerable sociocultural assets. These include rituals, reciprocal relationships, traditional knowledge and skills and support systems that deliver products or services in normal times as well as in times of crisis. This is the social capital that helps tightly knit communities survive and overcome harsh circumstances. In the past, such assets have often gone unrecognized and unexplored. However, in recent years, partly in response to earlier failures, a greater interest in the sociocultural and institutional dimensions of development has emerged. More emphasis has therefore been given to community participation and people-centred approaches. Applying a cultural perspective includes acknowledging, appreciating and working with the social capital that exists in many indigenous communities. UNFPA understands that this may be especially critical in places where traditions and sociocultural assets are being eroded by the effects of globalization.

2. The approach adopted by the organization has helped to inform project designs that fit diverse national and local contexts, without losing sight of human rights that are being promoted. It encourages finding locally grown solutions to ensure that ownership and sustainability of development results in favour of indigenous and other traditional communities. People who can contribute to changing those communities are active actors. When their attitudes and beliefs are respected, stakeholders may be open to changes that contribute to the well-being of their communities and human rights of all individuals.

3. There are some aspects that are particular to indigenous groups. Providing effective health care, especially preventive care, depends on the ability of medical and social services to accommodate cultural understandings, perceptions and practices. From years of experience, UNFPA and its partners in many countries

know how to deliver effective reproductive health information and services in a wide variety of settings. Engaging indigenous peoples in the process of ending their own poverty calls for special efforts. The ways in which indigenous peoples understand the world is essential to their identity, and development policies must reflect and reinforce them. Indigenous peoples have much to contribute to development: they must become architects and agents of development policy. They need a political space in which to act, and mainstream society needs to find a way to open that space.

4. UNFPA is also committed to an inclusive concept of development for the benefit of all sections of the population. UNFPA sees its work with indigenous peoples as part of a regional and national agenda of social protection and inclusion, and simultaneously recognizes the validity of a range in understanding and approach, including those adopted by women, youth and indigenous peoples. UNFPA pledges all its efforts to help establish and enhance the capacity for autonomous decision-making in a harmonious national and international context, so that the Millennium Development Goals may be realized in the indigenous community.

B. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed to the United Nations Population Fund

5. At its fifth session in May 2006, the Permanent Forum requested UNFPA to "fully incorporate a cultural perspective into health policies, programmes and reproductive health services aimed at providing indigenous women with quality health care, including emergency obstetric care, voluntary family planning and skilled attendance at birth". In that context, the Forum also emphasized that "the roles of traditional midwives should be re-evaluated and expanded so that they may assist indigenous women during their reproductive health processes and act as cultural brokers between health systems and the indigenous communities' values and world views".

6. In order to promote human rights, in particular the reproductive rights of indigenous peoples, and to contribute to the reduction of maternal mortality, UNFPA has been implementing intercultural reproductive health programmes for indigenous women in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama, identifying the main elements of intercultural maternal health.

7. In Bolivia, the country with the highest representation of indigenous peoples in the Americas, UNFPA provided assistance to an international workshop on traditional medicine, in close partnership with the Vice Ministry of Intercultural and Traditional Medicine. The objective was to enhance national capacities among traditional doctors and midwives in reproductive health/maternal health.

8. In line with the Permanent Forum's recommendations, UNFPA also developed an intercultural curriculum and signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health and Sports of Bolivia and five universities in the country to carrying out a five-year project aimed at enhancing skilled attendance at births in order to reduce maternal mortality among indigenous women, including youth and adolescent girls.

9. In the sphere of health education, UNFPA has contributed to a bilingual literacy education programme in Quechua and Spanish in sexual and reproductive

health, providing first and second-level literacy to over 10,000 indigenous persons, of which 76 per cent were women. This programme, which is based on cultural elements from Bolivia's indigenous cultures, leads not only to improved reproductive health but also to the further empowerment of women and improved family and community relations and conditions.

10. In Ecuador, UNFPA has contributed to the preparation of a publication that presents experiences in intercultural maternal health practices, as an effort to reduce maternal deaths. Based on these reflections, UNFPA is defining, with national government counterparts and indigenous organizations, alternative models of reproductive health interventions for indigenous women, taking into consideration their views. While providing assistance for the consolidation of the Jambi Huasi initiative in Imbabura, UNFPA supported dialogues between indigenous women and health providers in the province of Chimborazo, for the construction of intercultural reproductive health models, integrating both western and traditional medicine.

11. In the Amazon region of Ecuador, Sucumbíos and Orellana, UNFPA contributed to the training of the Quechua women in reproductive health and gender-based violence prevention. UNFPA also supported participation of indigenous women in conducting social audits to monitor the implementation of the law on free maternal services.

12. In Guatemala, UNFPA collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance to strengthen its national reproductive health programme by providing support to develop and implement a model for the reduction of maternal mortality, with a strong community component involving local traditional midwives and community committees. UNFPA is also supporting voluntary family-planning services for indigenous peoples, especially women, and a sociocultural research study for determining unmet family-planning needs. Moreover, UNFPA has promoted the inclusion of indigenous peoples' concerns and issues in the curricula of sexuality and population education programmes.

13. In Mexico, UNFPA has contributed to developing participatory intercultural models for improving indigenous peoples' reproductive health, with emphasis on the Nahuas, Tenek and Pames indigenous peoples in San Luis Potosí; the Tsotsiles, Tseltales, Choles and Mames of Chiapas; the Mixtecan and Zapotecan women of the state of Oaxaca; the Amuzgos and Mixtecan peoples in the state of Guerrero; the Nanhu and Tlapanecos in the state of Hidalgo; the Mayas in Quintana Roo and the Raramuri of Chihuahua. In partnership with the National Population Council and the National Council for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, UNFPA carried out a campaign on sexual and reproductive health and family planning using culturally adapted material.

14. In Panama, at the policy level, UNFPA and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) supported the elaboration of the national plan for reducing maternal mortality, which especially targets rural and indigenous women. Based on ten years of cumulative experience, UNFPA signed an agreement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to provide financial and technical support to the Ministry of Health and the Ngobe Women's Association to scale up its reproductive health interventions aimed at reducing maternal mortality and morbidities among indigenous women, through an intercultural multi-strategy

approach.[1] One component of this project is community audit mechanisms, which are implemented through capacity-building for local "social auditors".

15. At the regional level and in partnership with the Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas, Región Sur, UNFPA implemented a regional initiative in South America which has contributed to the strengthening of indigenous women organizations in the area of reproductive health and gender equality, leading to the inclusion of these issues in their agendas and contributing to advance intercultural reproductive health programmes and services with governments at both the subregional and national levels. In line with the above-mentioned experience, UNFPA has just submitted a regional project to the Government of Spain aimed at promoting the empowerment of indigenous women organizations and networks and the development of intercultural reproductive health and gender equality public policies in eight countries of the region. If approved, as expected, this project will help systematize, consolidate and scale up national initiatives and generate new ones.

16. In the Asia-Pacific region, UNFPA has several programmes on indigenous and tribal peoples. For instance, the India country office has undertaken several initiatives to conceptualize and design interventions to address the needs and rights of indigenous and tribal peoples by providing technical assistance to the state Government of Madhya Pradesh to focus on the health needs of indigenous and tribal peoples, particularly safe motherhood and child health. In Rajasthan, UNFPA is working to address indigenous and tribal women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS using community-based approaches, including media and interpersonal communication at village level. In Maharashtra, UNFPA provides technical and financial support to ensure comprehensive reproductive health services for indigenous and tribal peoples, build the capacity of indigenous women's groups to promote prevention of sexually transmitted infection and HIV and to mobilize women's indigenous groups on reproductive health and rights, gender issues and how to demand quality services. In Gujarat, UNFPA is supporting the State Government in reaching the goal of reducing maternal mortality among indigenous and tribal women.

17. Another example of UNFPA interventions in the region is Indonesia. Under the sixth country programme (2002-2005), a community-based support system in favour of indigenous women was set up, with financial support to the community for referral of emergency obstetric care cases. During the project implementation, there were no maternal deaths recorded in the participating villages.

18. In Myanmar, UNFPA is advocating before the Government to ensure that the areas with the most needs in terms of reproductive health (which coincide with the areas where indigenous peoples live) are addressed by the country programme.

C. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed to the United Nations system

19. Regarding recommendations addressed to the United Nations system, in general under one or more items, during 2006, UNFPA made contributions in the

[1] The project will continue strengthening health services at the primary health-care level, especially the Obstetric Care Unit, created by Fortuna SA, a Canadian hydroelectric enterprise.

spheres of human rights, population and development, HIV/AIDS prevention, adolescent and youth rights, gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence and humanitarian assistance.

20. In the sphere of population and development, UNFPA contributed to the Forum's recommendations both at the regional and national levels. At the regional level it provided, along with other partners, assistance to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the analysis of the situation of indigenous peoples of the Americas.[2]

21. Regarding the development of a knowledge base on indigenous issues, including the identification of intercultural elements for programming, UNFPA provided support for the establishment of a network of analysis and provision of information on indigenous peoples in Mexico, in partnership with universities and governmental institutions. As a result, studies assessing the impact of migration on indigenous women and youth and their families have been elaborated.

22. Similarly, in Ecuador, UNFPA supported the development of the System of Indicators for Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador, including results of the 2004 demographic and maternal and child health survey. The system includes information regarding lands and territories, education, inequality and poverty, health and reproductive health, housing, employment and economy, and welfare. It is expected that this system will be a key instrument for the definition of public policies in favour of indigenous peoples and the monitoring of these policies.

23. In El Salvador, UNFPA advocated for the inclusion of indigenous issues in the upcoming fifth population and fourth housing census, providing variables that will be measured through the 2007 census.

24. UNFPA Mexico collaborated in the development of a model on population, environment and sustainable development among the Lacandona indigenous peoples of Chiapas and is contributing in the design and launching of information systems for the States of Oaxaca, Guerrero, San Luis Potosí and Hidalgo, which integrate information on indigenous peoples.

25. UNFPA supported a study on reproductive beliefs and behaviours of the Mbya people in Paraguay, a study of the reproductive health of the indigenous peoples of Salamanca, Costa Rica, and a study on ethnic groups in Honduras aimed at providing information for the design of public policies and improving programmes.

26. UNFPA facilitated negotiations between the Ombudsman Office of Costa Rica and that of Panama in order to discuss human rights violations regarding Panamanian indigenous peoples' living in the frontier, advocating for the reproductive rights of indigenous women. Follow-up actions and solutions are expected to be found in 2007 between both country offices. In Guatemala, UNFPA contributed to partnership-building between the Ombudsperson for the Defense of Indigenous Women and the network of Latin American magistrates, enhancing the networks' knowledge on the specific gender problems and discriminatory practices that indigenous women face.

27. In the area of HIV/AIDS prevention, UNFPA carried out projects in Guatemala and Mexico. In Mexico, a study on the linkages between migration, HIV/AIDS and

[2] Information to be disseminated in the Commission's *Panorama Social* of 2007.

sexually transmitted infections took place among the Tsotsiles in the State of Chiapas. Some of these findings were used to train the indigenous leaders of ten states. In Guatemala, UNFPA supported the elaboration of a study on the knowledge, attitudes and practices of four indigenous communities in the sphere of sexuality and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. That study contributed to the design of relevant strategies for the National Programme on HIV/AIDS. UNFPA continued to implement a project among the Zutujiles women and youth on HIV/AIDS prevention, promoting knowledge and responsible and safe sexual practices.

28. In the area of adolescent and youth rights, UNFPA carried out projects in Ecuador, Panama and Guatemala, advocating for the inclusion of indigenous adolescents and youth in national youth policies. In the sphere of sexuality education, UNFPA Ecuador contributed to the definition and preparation of sexuality education guides for indigenous youth of the Sierra and the Amazon regions, incorporating an intercultural perspective. In Panama, UNFPA has been implementing a replicable model on health and sexuality education, empowerment and youth rights among indigenous youth, in close partnership with non-traditional non-governmental organizations and Family Care International.

29. In order to advance gender equality among indigenous peoples at the country level, UNFPA carried out several programmes in Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico and Guatemala. In partnership with women's organizations, UNFPA is designing a culturally focused gender approach to promote gender equality in Bolivia. In Guatemala, together with the Association for the Well-Being of the Family, UNFPA provided technical support to carry out gender-based violence prevention and protection programmes among the Cachiquel indigenous peoples of Chimaltenango. In the State of Chiapas, UNFPA Mexico also contributed to the development of a community participatory and training model with the Tsotsiles and Tseltatles peoples, in order to prevent violence among indigenous women and girls.

30. In Colombia, the work of UNFPA, along with other United Nations agencies, during 2006 was directly linked to providing a humanitarian response to internally displaced persons, of which around 80 per cent are indigenous peoples. In the case of UNFPA, in particular, special emphasis was given to working with the displaced Nasa women in order to identify their needs on sexual and reproductive health. Through a participatory consultation process, needs were assessed and the content of humanitarian kits redefined and distributed. Moreover, UNFPA Colombia designed two projects to be started in 2007 aimed at improving the sexual and reproductive health and prevention of gender-based violence among indigenous women living in displaced areas.

31. In Peru, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Education for the scaling up of the bilingual literacy project in Quechua and Spanish implemented in the Cuzco province during the period from 2002 to 2004. The Adult Education Section adopted the methodology at the national level, reaching approximately 100,000 men and women, most of them indigenous peoples. Seven thousand instructors were trained to facilitate the educational process. The Basic Education Programme for Adults adopted a new curricula that addressed sexual and reproductive health concerns and cross-cutting issues, including gender, citizenship and human rights. In 2006, 300 centres adopted the new curricula and, in 2007, an additional 300 will be part of the innovation.

32. In 2006, UNFPA provided support to the Chirapaq Centre of Indigenous Cultures in Peru for the training of 46 young leaders from Andean and Amazon regions in sexual and reproductive health. Educational materials were developed and strategies for peer-to-peer education were developed. This activity is framed as one strategic component of the Chirapaq project entitled "Young indigenous community members taking care of their own sexual and reproductive health".

33. In Mexico, the United Nations country team promoted the preparation of a report entitled "Special human development report and the Millennium Development Goals" regarding indigenous peoples with the active participation of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples and governmental institutions. Within the framework of this report, UNFPA has been supporting efforts, along with the National Population Council, to update sociodemographic indicators on indigenous peoples.

34. In Panama, UNFPA contributed to the inclusion of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum in the 2006 United Nations Development Assistance Framework exercise and, through the Gender Theme Group, promoted synergies with other United Nations agencies for advancing the rights of indigenous women in the Ngobe and Kuna Yala regions.

35. As part of the United Nations country team's initiatives, UNFPA contributed to promoting and consolidating two intercultural theme groups, one in Ecuador and the other in Bolivia. As part of the intercultural theme group of Ecuador, UNFPA facilitated the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples to Ecuador. Within the framework of the intercultural theme group, UNFPA, Human Rights Strengthening programme and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) contributed to the constitution of an Advisory Committee on Indigenous Issues at the country-team level. The proposal of that Committee is presently being assessed with the national indigenous organizations. In Bolivia, the intercultural theme group was established with the participation of eight United Nations agencies. Its establishment led to the creation of a National Council for the Dialogue of the United Nations System with Indigenous Peoples. This Council has the objective of advising the country team on strategies to promote and guarantee the exercise of the human rights of indigenous peoples with due respect to their world views.

36. UNFPA country offices in Asia and Pacific that are working with indigenous peoples have involved indigenous peoples as key stakeholders and recipients in the design of specific programmes, mostly related to reproductive health and HIV prevention, in order to ensure that they will benefit from efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals at the national and local level. The Asia and Pacific region is also working to incorporate a cultural perspective into health policies, programmes and reproductive health services aimed at providing indigenous women with quality health care, including emergency obstetric care, voluntary family planning and skilled attendance at birth.

D. Obstacles encountered by the United Nations Population Fund in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

37. Despite important advances during 2006, the obstacles encountered by UNFPA in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum varied across the Latin American region. In some countries, where institutional capacity in the area of indigenous peoples is strong, obstacles were related to insufficient core funds and lack of flexibility in national programmes. In other cases, obstacles were related to the wide diversity of indigenous groups, their geographical dispersion and the subsequent difficulty in defining "common" programme strategies. In Colombia, the issue of security contributed to hampering humanitarian assistance.

38. The need for enhanced regional and national advocacy was identified in countries in which obstacles were related to insufficient government commitment and the perception that the needs and rights of indigenous peoples were already included in national public policies and laws.

39. Some countries identified initial obstacles related to the willingness of indigenous organizations and male leaders to work on gender equality and reproductive health for indigenous women. Nonetheless, in most countries, partnership with indigenous organizations, including women's organizations, was key in overcoming obstacles and advancing in the recognition of both topics for improving the lives of indigenous peoples and communities.

40. In the Asia Pacific region, in some cases, governments were reluctant to have resources dedicated to "minority" populations, while in others, more effective approaches to reaching and addressing the specific needs and rights of indigenous peoples were needed.

E. Additional information regarding recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities

41. In line with the 2006 recommendations of the Permanent Forum, the Latin America and the Caribbean Division and the Asia and Pacific Division of UNFPA have adopted the topic of indigenous issues as a priority area for their next regional programmes for 2008-2011.

42. The next Asia and Pacific Regional Programme will have a systematic approach with specific interventions to support and/or initiate work at the country level to address the needs and rights of indigenous peoples. This will be linked to the efforts to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity within the Asia and Pacific region, including in countries where the maternal mortality rates mask large internal disparities.

43. The Latin America and the Caribbean Division has requested all its country offices to consider indigenous issues in their programming processes. Likewise, in order to advance indigenous issues in the region, the Latin America and the Caribbean Division established an ad hoc working group comprising staff members from country offices and the country support teams.

44. Moreover, in 2006, UNFPA carried out extensive training in Latin America to promote culturally sensitive approaches to programming. In those training sessions,

indigenous issues were discussed along with other cultural determinants specific to the regions.

45. The UNFPA country support team in Mexico played a significant role in advancing the indigenous agenda in the region through the provision of technical assistance to country offices and programmes. It particularly promoted indigenous issues in the following meetings:

(a) Experts' meeting on indigenous issues, held in September 2006, in partnership with the Latin American Population Association, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Centro Preventivo de la Desnutricion Infantil and the Centre for Population Studies of Hidalgo, Mexico;

(b) Seventh meeting of Ibero-American magistrates on the theme "Justice and gender in diversity", which included discussions on actions needed to further indigenous and afro-descendant women's access to justice;

(c) International seminar on poverty, social exclusion and racial/ethnic discrimination in Latin America and the Caribbean, in which UNFPA presented a publication on "Sexual and reproductive health behaviours according to ethnicity in Mexico", emphasizing findings on the role of secondary education for advancing women's status, delaying early marriages and pregnancies and the need for including indigenous world views and languages in health and education public policies.

46. In the Latin American region, UNFPA has an estimated 20 projects and/or initiatives being carried out at the regional and national levels, mainly in the countries of Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru. It is worth noting that Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay, Brazil and Costa Rica have included or are including the topic of indigenous issues in their new country programmes. In the Asia-Pacific region, UNFPA is carrying out initiatives in favour of indigenous peoples in India, Myanmar, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

F. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the sixth session: "Territories, lands and national resources"

47. Within the framework of the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on the theme of "Territories, lands and national resources", the Latin America and the Caribbean Division is organizing a preparatory meeting for April 2007 with the indigenous organizations of South America, Mexico, Guatemala and Panama that will attend the sixth session, to be held in May 2007. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a space for reflection and discussion on the agenda and previous recommendations of the Forum. In addition, the country offices of Bolivia and Ecuador are organizing two national meetings with indigenous organizations, including women's organizations, as preparatory activities for the sixth session.

II. Report of the United Nations system in Ecuador

Summary

This report refers to the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), together with the contributions made by various United Nations agencies in Ecuador in compliance with the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples in the framework of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples for the year 2006. This is the second joint report submitted to the Permanent Forum by United Nations agencies; it was prepared by the intercultural theme group chaired by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Ecuador.

A. Cooperation framework

48. In the context of United Nations reform, Ecuador is moving towards harmonizing views, strategies and actions and streamlining procedures. The common country assessment of the United Nations system in Ecuador in 2002 highlighted the need to work to reduce inequalities and exclusion in the economic, social, ethnic and gender spheres. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) incorporates in its strategies an intercultural and gender perspective aimed at reducing these inequalities.

49. The inter-agency, intercultural theme group established by the United Nations country team is making efforts to incorporate an intercultural approach into UNDAF programming. The group is composed of United Nations focal points, who are participating in an effort to harmonize views, knowledge and experiences in their work with indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples and to implement an annual work programme agreed by the agencies. The following agencies are part of the working group: UNFPA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and the World Tourism Organization (WTO).

B. Coordination of United Nations agencies in Ecuador

50. The practice of inter-agency coordination at the country level is in keeping with the United Nations reform and with the Permanent Forum's mandate to heighten awareness about indigenous issues and promoting integration and

coordination of all activities related to these issues within the United Nations system.

C. Cooperation among United Nations agencies in Ecuador

51. Inter-agency activities are aimed at the three areas of cooperation defined by UNDAF: poverty reduction through access to basic social services; environmental sustainability; and democratic governance and transparency. In these three areas, United Nations agencies are involved in various projects, some of which are being jointly implemented with the indigenous peoples and nations of Ecuador. The working strategies include: (a) focusing agency efforts on indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples; (b) raising awareness of gaps based on ethnicity, race and gender; (c) empowering indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples as partners in development strategies; and (d) creating internal mechanisms to ensure the incorporation of an intercultural perspective.

D. Report on Millennium Development Goals

52. The United Nations system made progress in preparing a report on the Millennium Development Goals, which takes into account the perspective of indigenous peoples. This report was discussed with the country's indigenous organizations. A preliminary version, which focuses on gaps based on ethnic discrimination and makes policy recommendations for bridging these gaps, has been completed.

E. Poverty reduction through access to basic social services

1. Education

53. Through the Human Rights Strengthening (HURIST) programme, jointly executed by UNDP and UNHCHR and supported by the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples were incorporated into the curriculum of the National Directorate for Bilingual Intercultural Education (DINEIB).

2. Health

54. On the basis of an international seminar on intercultural approaches to maternal health, a proposal was put forward for culturally sensitive sexual and reproductive health services in Chimborazo province, which has a high concentration of indigenous peoples. UNFPA is working with the Provincial Indigenous Health Department on an intercultural sexual and reproductive health-care model. UNFPA worked with the Quechua people in the Amazon region on disseminating the Free Maternity and Child Care Act and on sexual and reproductive health training.

55. PAHO has prepared an intercultural guide to the treatment of childhood illness; this technical tool will be used by the Ministry of Public Health after it has been tested at the local level.

56. PAHO has relaunched its Health of the Indigenous Peoples Initiative, urging member States to ensure incorporation of indigenous perspectives into the Millennium Development Goals and national health policies; to improve information and knowledge management on indigenous health issues to strengthen regional and national evidence-based decision-making and monitoring capacities; and to integrate an intercultural approach into the national health systems of the Region as part of the primary health-care strategy.

57. The Indigenous Health Department of the Ministry of Health, together with the Disaster Preparedness Programme and the PAHO Regional Health Programme of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, held a workshop on risk management based on local capacities of indigenous peoples, which made it possible to disseminate disaster risk management practices and tools and incorporate indigenous world views concerning disasters.

58. The Culture Sector of UNESCO executed two pilot projects on the promotion and protection of traditional medicine and cultural tourism; the UNESCO office in Quito, pursuant to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and from various culture-management and development-oriented perspectives, carried out these projects jointly during the 2004-2005 biennium with two indigenous organizations in the Ecuadorian Sierra, an area with a high concentration of indigenous poverty.

59. The first project, on recovery of traditional medicine and prevention of diseases, executed by the Fundación Salud y Vida in Saraguro, southern Ecuador, has helped to establish a system of self-sustainable medicinal plant gardens, which are administered and maintained by the communities themselves. Dissemination of knowledge about the Andean world view concerning traditional medicine is a strong component of this project. Its impact has been theoretical and spiritual, as well as pragmatic. The second project on development of community tourism through traditional medicine, is being executed by an indigenous organization in the central mountains (Chimborazo province), where women make up 80 per cent of the population. It promotes cultural tourism based on the practice of traditional medicine, and extracts products for domestic and external consumption.

3. Sociodemographic and health information

60. The 2004 demographic and mother-and-child-health survey (ENDEMAIN 2004) for the first time obtained data disaggregated by groups of indigenous peoples. This information was compiled in a publication on indigenous peoples' health, which shows the existing discrimination gaps, in particular in maternal and child health care. These gaps result in high infant and maternal mortality rates among rural, mainly indigenous populations, and other problems related to child and maternal malnutrition and teen-age pregnancy, among other things.

61. The System of Indicators for Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador was updated this year with UNFPA support and contains information from ENDEMAIN 2004 on indigenous peoples' health status. The System includes indicators such as identity, traditional medicine, land, territories and biodiversity, social action and territorial administration. The indicators, on population, inequality and poverty, health and hygiene, education, housing, employment, unemployment, economic factors and well-being — disaggregated by ethnic group — allow for comparisons between groups and measurement of existing inequalities.

F. Environmental sustainability

62. The UNDP Small Grants Programme has supported 15 local and national sustainable projects, directly managed by indigenous organizations or non-governmental organizations working with indigenous groups. In March 2006, the Programme held a workshop, which was attended by 70 indigenous leaders, to explain how the Programme supports community initiatives aimed at strengthening the organizational capacities of indigenous organizations and their capacity to manage their natural heritage, inform them about new options for submitting project profiles to the Programme (videos, photographs, identity cards), and gather information and views as input into its strategy for working with indigenous peoples.

63. UNDP and the Andean project of UNCHCR supported the Ministry of the Environment in setting up inter-agency coordination mechanisms and identifying priorities for the formulation of a new action plan for the protection of the rights of isolated indigenous peoples. They also participated in a regional seminar on isolated and first-contact indigenous peoples in the Amazon region and the Gran Chaco, organized by UNCHCR and other organizations and held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in November 2006.

The potential of tourism for alleviating poverty and promoting intercultural dialogue

64. The World Tourism Organization (WTO), the United Nations body responsible for tourism, launched its Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty (ST-EP) programme with a view to promoting sustainable tourism. The ST-EP programme in South America is based in Quito and became operational in mid-2005.

65. Community tourism is a tool for reducing poverty and protecting the environment. The indigenous communities, Afro-Ecuadorian people and farmers view tourism as more than merely a business. They try to combine tourist activities with community life, and this allows for respect for their cultures, protection and balance of the environment (*pachamama*), respect for their knowledge and ancestral practices and environmental and territorial management of their natural resources.

G. Governance and transparency

66. The aforementioned Human Rights Strengthening (HURIST) programme, which was jointly implemented by the National Directorate for the Defence of Indigenous Peoples and the National Directorate for Bilingual Intercultural Education, facilitated the preparation of a training manual for indigenous defenders of human rights and a study on collective indigenous rights in Ecuador, among other things.

1. Consultative mechanism

67. With the support of the HURIST programme, the intercultural theme group is working on establishing an advisory council and adviser on indigenous peoples and the United Nations system in Ecuador, with a view to considering the human rights of indigenous peoples and incorporating the indigenous world view into relevant programmes and strategies.

2. Gender

68. Recognizing that indigenous women suffer domestic violence, UNIFEM and UNESCO worked on an awareness campaign that provided training on gender-based violence to community radio stations and supported the production of two radio programmes on the prevention of violence in bilingual (Quechua-Spanish) indigenous communities — a spot announcement and a sociodrama on the prevention of violence against women. Some of the radio stations that received this training later took part in a competition that was part of the campaign of activism to end violence against women, and one of the stations was awarded a prize.

69. In the framework of the regional project of the Intercontinental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas, UNIFEM supported the holding of an Andean meeting that established a set of priorities aimed at promoting the political participation of indigenous women, which was submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Andean Community.

70. In Sucumbíos, in the Ecuadorian Amazon, UNIFEM and UNFPA supported the Association of Quechua Women in implementing an awareness campaign and training project on gender-based violence as one of the problems that restricts the participation of women and the exercise of their rights at the community level. UNIFEM supported the Association of Quechua Women of Sucumbíos in implementing this project in the cantons of Lago Agrio, Cascales and Putumayo. The strategy consisted of holding mixed training and awareness-raising workshops at different levels and of lobbying the authorities of the Federation of Quechua Organizations.

3. Children and youth

71. Indigenous children, youth and leaders who participated in developing a minimum agenda for protecting the rights of indigenous children and youth promoted the agenda in three of the country's regions through the system of bilingual intercultural education, and they began implementing the work proposals for contributing to the agenda at the community level.

72. In the framework of the segment on health and nutrition in the minimum agenda, an agreement on pregnancy and childbirth was reached by the Ministry of Public Health, the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the Central University of Ecuador, the Confederation of Quechua Nations of Ecuador (ECUARUNARI) and UNICEF. The aims of the agreement are to: (a) include vertical childbirth in the protocol on childbirth in the public health system, and (b) to include traditional childbirth methods in the curriculum for students of medicine.

73. In the framework of the segment on education in the minimum agenda, a proposed methodology on the promotion and implementation of the agenda throughout the system of bilingual intercultural education was prepared, tested and put in place. The new methodology will ensure that indigenous children express themselves and participate in the classroom with a view to implementing the agenda. To that end, training was provided to a group of trainers who in turn will provide training to supervisors and teachers throughout the system.

74. In addition, UNICEF, the National Directorate for Bilingual Intercultural Education and the University of Cuenca maintain a working partnership through the Regional Andean Project of Bilingual Intercultural Education for the Amazon

Region (EIBAMAZ) with a view to increasing the number of children attending bilingual schools in the Ecuadorian Amazon. This four-year project, which was funded and sponsored by the Government of Finland, has three components: initial and ongoing teacher training; research on bilingual intercultural education in the Amazon; and production of educational material for children of indigenous minorities of the Amazon.

75. EIBAMAZ is a regional project that receives support from the UNICEF offices in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador. It aims to strengthen the system of bilingual intercultural education and to improve the quality of its services in each country.

76. UNFPA supported indigenous organizations in mountainous areas in preparing sex education materials with an intercultural approach for teachers at bilingual schools, and the "Let's take care" health promotion manual was adapted for their use.

H. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples

77. From 24 April to 4 May 2006 the Special Rapporteur, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, made an official visit in connection with the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples. This visit was requested by national indigenous organizations and coordinated by the United Nations system through the intercultural theme group. The Special Rapporteur visited five of the country's provinces and met with the authorities of the central Government, including the President, Ministers, Parliament, the judiciary and representatives of State indigenous institutions, such as the Council for the Development of the Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador (CODENPE), the National Directorate for Bilingual Intercultural Education (DINEIB), the National Directorate for Indigenous Health (DNSI), the Office of the Ombudsman and the National Directorate for the Defence of Indigenous Peoples (DINAPIN). The Special Rapporteur also met with representatives of indigenous nationalities and peoples, community leaders in several provinces and representatives from the United Nations system in Ecuador, international cooperation agencies, the business sector, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

78. One of the most important conclusions of the Special Rapporteur's visit was that the full realization of constitutional principles must be achieved through secondary legislation and regulation of constitutional rights. Congress was urged to enact legislation in this area, to strengthen legislative mechanisms and institutional structures and to approve a law on the reconciliation of, and distribution of competencies between, indigenous justice and ordinary law.

79. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Human Rights Council should call on Colombia, Ecuador and Peru and the international community to pool forces and resources in order to protect and safeguard endangered indigenous peoples living in the Amazonian region and enact the necessary legislation for the promotion, protection and safeguarding of the rights of peoples in voluntary isolation, in strict compliance with the International Labour Organization Convention (No. 169) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the Human Rights Council.

80. To follow up the Special Rapporteur's recommendations, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ecuador participated in a seminar organized by Droit et Démocratie in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The seminar was held in Montreal, Canada, and provided a forum for discussion on the implementation of the recommendations. Ecuador described the experience of coordination within the intercultural theme group as a good practice that should promote inter-agency cooperation and follow-up of the Rapporteur's recommendations.

I. Preparation for participation in the fifth session of the Permanent Forum

81. The intercultural theme group organized a preparatory workshop for the participants in the fifth session of the Permanent Forum, attended by representatives of indigenous organizations of men and women from Ecuador, Peru, Colombia and Guatemala. This activity was coordinated and financed by a number of agencies working together.

J. Andean project for the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples and people of African descent in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru

82. Under this project, the intercultural theme group was assisted this year by an indigenous fellowship recipient from the Shuar group in the Ecuadorian Amazon, who worked for four months, from September to December, with the intercultural theme group and the Andean project. This collaboration was very useful, both to the United Nations and to the trainee, who became familiar with the functioning of the United Nations system and its agencies, programmes and projects.

K. Conclusions

83. **The work of the United Nations in Ecuador with indigenous peoples in 2006 made progress in preparing a report on the Millennium Development Goals from the perspective of indigenous peoples; in conferring with indigenous peoples in the ongoing process of setting up an advisory council, composed of representatives of national bodies; in organizing the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people; and on raising public awareness of the existing inequality gaps by publishing information, especially in the field of reproductive health. This information has been disseminated through two inter-agency brochures and associated programmes. An innovative aspect has been the incorporation of an indigenous fellowship recipient in the intercultural theme group, which contributed to his further involvement in the intercultural work of the United Nations system.**

84. **The challenges for 2007 include following up the Special Rapporteur's recommendations, disseminating the report on the Millennium Development Goals among the indigenous peoples and promoting the incorporation of an intercultural perspective into public policy.**

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Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other inter-governmental organizations

International Fund for Agricultural Development

Summary

Acknowledging the importance of indigenous peoples development and the centrality of the mandate of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in compliance with the recommendations of the Permanent Forum at its fifth session, the Fund reports that in 2006 it has approved a number of projects that specifically targeted indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities for a total amount of $93.6 million in loans and $1.64 million in grants.

In response to the recommendation of the Permanent Forum, made at its sixth session, in 2007 IFAD will develop its principles of engagement with indigenous peoples. In addition, in 2006, IFAD responded to the Permanent Forum recommendations as specified below:

- Financed two "Learning route" training programmes focused on indigenous tourism activities, through the Regional Programme in Support of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon Basin
- Sponsored, in cooperation with other institutional partners, the fourth Anaconda Film Festival in Latin America
- Funded two studies in India, one on data disaggregation and human development index and one on traditional and local governance

* E/C.19/2007/1.

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- Held a policy forum at its headquarters on indigenous issues
- Invited the Chair of the Permanent Forum to address its Executive Board
- Hosted the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues
- Organized an exhibition on the arts and traditions of tribal peoples of India

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I. Response of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to the specific recommendations of the Forum

A. Response to recommendation 16[1]

Establish an institutional partnership with indigenous peoples so that they can fully participate in IFAD projects and programmes that are relevant to indigenous peoples.

1. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has from its early years been involved in the development of indigenous peoples thanks to its targeted and participatory approach to rural development. The Fund has so far provided approximately $1.18 million in loans and $15.65 million in grants in support of indigenous peoples. Starting in 2002, in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, IFAD worked proactively on advocacy with indigenous peoples beyond the confines of its projects. Since then, the Fund has established a close partnership with the Forum and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, and has provided funds to the Forum's secretariat to consult with indigenous peoples and communities on the impact of selected IFAD projects and whether the projects were in line with the Forum's principles, concepts and practices of development. In September 2006, the Chair of the Forum was invited to deliver a speech to the Fund Executive Board on "Enhancing the partnership of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues with IFAD". In an effort to further enhance and institutionalize its dialogue with indigenous peoples, in 2007 IFAD will develop its corporate principles of engagement with indigenous peoples.

B. Response to recommendation 164[2]

Contribute to fellowship programme established within the secretariat of the Permanent Forum.

2. On the basis of proposals received by the Permanent Forum for supporting the indigenous fellowship programme, IFAD is considering extending grant financing to the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. However, in order to be considered, proposals must meet the Fund's grant policy criteria, and their approval is subject to technical evaluation and revision. In addition, grant financing can only be extended to organizations after the successful completion of previous grants (ongoing grant No. 810 to the Permanent Forum secretariat).

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 23* (E/2006/43), para. 16.

[2] Ibid., para. 164.

C. Response to recommendations 165, 166 and 168[3]

165. Undertake work in data disaggregation in collaboration with the World Bank and the Inter-American Bank, following the IFAD work undertaken in India in disaggregating of the human development index.

166. Enhance the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility transferred by the World Bank through grant funding mechanism and contributions of other international financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors.

168. Lead a process aimed at generating a global report on the status of indigenous peoples as a complement to the indigenous peoples' world status report.

3. In 2007, in addition to its operational and advocacy work, the Fund will concentrate its efforts on developing the IFAD principles of engagement with indigenous peoples and to operate and mobilize resources for the newly established Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, which was successfully transferred by the World Bank in September 2006. However, possibilities of replicating, along with partners, the work undertaken in India on data disaggregation will be explored. At this stage, IFAD cannot make a commitment with regard to recommendation 168.

D. Response to recommendation 167

Ensure continuity and future sustainability of indigenous peoples initiatives within the organization.

4. Based on the gains made so far under the leadership of the Assistant President on Special Assignment for Indigenous and Tribal Issues, the Fund has made the necessary arrangements to maintain its high profile and commitment to indigenous issues. The work related to indigenous peoples is being mainstreamed in a functional unit incorporated in the Policy Division. A Coordinator for Indigenous and Tribal Issues has been recruited to support day-to-day activities and the newly established Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility. In addition, an interdepartmental Policy Reference Group on Indigenous Issues has been set up under the leadership of the two Assistant Presidents of the External Affairs and the Programme Management Departments.

[3] Ibid., paras. 165, 166 and 168.

II. Response of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to the recommendations of the Forum to the United Nations system

Special theme: the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals

A. Response to recommendation 27[4]

The United Nation system is encouraged to support the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals at the national and local levels.

5. Extreme poverty remains a reality for over a billion people in the world. IFAD believes that poverty reduction needs to be tackled in the rural areas by focusing on agriculture, the basis of the economic livelihoods of most poor rural peoples. IFAD activities contribute to a number of Millennium Development Goals, most specifically Goal 1. To the extent that the Fund's agenda is rural poverty reduction, indigenous peoples are among the major target groups of IFAD, as they are often among the poorest and most marginalized people the Fund encounters in its areas of intervention, particularly in Asia and Latin America.

B. Response to recommendation 40[5]

Considering the commitment made by the World Bank to further explore inter-agency mechanisms to support the inclusion of indigenous peoples in national policies reduction strategies in a limited number of pilot countries, the Permanent Forum recommends that United Nations organizations fully contribute to that initiative and report back to the Permanent Forum on the progress made and the opportunities and limitations encountered, with a view to replicating the initiatives in other countries.

6. In the formulation of poverty reduction strategy papers, rural development has so far received little attention. IFAD has been concentrating its efforts on introducing the rural dimension in poverty reduction strategies and in building the capacity of the rural poor, including, organizations of indigenous peoples, to participate in the poverty reduction strategy paper processes.

Data collection and disaggregation

C. Response to the global efforts towards the identification of indicators and data collections relevant to indigenous peoples

7. In addition to grant resources provided to the secretariat of the Permanent Forum in 2005 and in order to define specific indicators of poverty and well-being among indigenous peoples, in 2006, IFAD funded a study on human development

[4] Ibid., para. 27.
[5] Ibid., para. 40.

and deprivation among the Scheduled Tribes in India, carried out by the Indian Institute for Human Development. The purpose of the study was to calculate the human development, poverty and gender indices for a specific socio-economic group, the Scheduled Tribes, to compare them in terms of the indices in India as a whole, and to place them in a global context of development and deprivation. The study also focused on trends in poverty reduction among the Scheduled Tribes and on key poverty and deprivation factors. The main conclusion of the study was that the human development index for various tribal belts in India is as low as that of some of the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The results of the study were presented at a workshop in New Delhi, held in April 2006, and at the World Bank Conference on Poverty Reduction and Indigenous Peoples, held in New York in May 2006.

Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

D. Response to recommendation 128[6]

The Permanent Forum requests the Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples to submit a report at its annual session regarding progress on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Second Decade and invites States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations to provide information to the Coordinator.

8. In the process of developing its principles of engagement with indigenous peoples, IFAD will address the five objectives of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People and submit to the coordinator of the Second Decade a plan of action that will emerge from consultations within the organization and with indigenous peoples' representatives. More specifically, in those areas directly related to the IFAD mandate, such as economic and social development, the Fund will address issues related to (a) free, prior and informed consent; (b) policies that recognize environmentally sustainable pastoralism, hunting, gathering and shifting cultivation as legitimate activities; and (c) gender perspectives.

9. Within the context of development with identity, indigenous institutions and governance structures, IFAD, funded a study in 2005 that is being carried out by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, on "Identity, power and rights: the State, international institutions and indigenous people", the goal of which is to ensure that indigenous visions of development and rights are recognized, respected and taken into consideration in national and international development programmes. Furthermore, in 2006, the Fund undertook a study on local governance, development and the identity of indigenous peoples, which documented traditional and local governance in five states in India.

[6] Ibid., para. 128.

E. Response to recommendations 136 and 137[7]

136. The Permanent Forum recommends that States, United Nations organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations elaborate and develop strategies and action plans for communication, education and public awareness on indigenous issues during the Second Decade, addressing different audiences. Toolkits should also be developed for use in the implementation of such plans.

137. The Permanent Forum recommends that States, United Nations organizations and indigenous peoples' strengthen the necessary communications, education and information infrastructure and support networks of educators on indigenous issues. Information and communications technology (ICT) for indigenous peoples must be supported in order to close the technological and information gap.

10. In October 2006, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Confederación de Pueblos Indígenas de Bolivia and several indigenous peoples' organizations, IFAD co-sponsored a special session on indigenous peoples and communication for development at the World Congress on Communication for Development held in Rome. It also supported the participation in the congress of indigenous peoples' representatives from different regions. The special session produced specific recommendations to the World Congress on mainstreaming communication for development policies, programmes and services to foster the sustainable development of indigenous peoples' communities (see details on grants activities below).

11. During the course of 2006, IFAD also initiated programmes to raise the awareness of journalists in Latin America and South Africa about and to advocate indigenous peoples' issues (see details on grants activities below).

12. Furthermore, in 2006, as part of the development of the Rural Poverty Portal powered by IFAD, the Fund expanded its web page on indigenous peoples to incorporate its experiences and general issues related to indigenous peoples. The page can be accessed through the Rural Poverty Portal (http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org), and through the IFAD web page (www.ifad.org).

III. Other significant information regarding recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues within the International Fund for Agricultural Development

13. During 2006, through its loan facility, the IFAD Executive Board approved seven projects supporting indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities and pastoralists. The approved projects covered two countries in Asia (China and Viet Nam), three in Latin America (Argentina, Bolivia and Colombia) and two in Africa (Mali and the Sudan). The total cost of projects benefiting indigenous peoples amounted to $93.6 million, of which the IFAD contribution amounted to $49 23 million. They expect to benefit approximately 151,075 indigenous households (for further details on the approved projects, see the annex to the present report).

[7] Ibid., paras. 136 and 137.

14. Six institutional grants were also approved in favour of organizations supporting indigenous peoples for a total amount of $2.409 million, of which the IFAD contribution amounted to $1.64 million (for details, see the annex to the present report).

15. A grant of $900,000 was approved by the Fund to support the Regional Programme for Rural Development Training in implementing a three-year "Learning route" training programme[8] in Latin America. The programme will focus on different thematic areas, including the management of indigenous ecotourism.

16. A contribution of $50,000 was extended to FAO in preparation of a special session during the World Congress on Communication for Development to enable indigenous groups and communities to be able to better communicate their principle, concepts and practice of development. The objectives of this grant are as follows:

- Promote the mainstreaming of communication for development policies, programmes and services to foster the sustainable development of indigenous peoples' communities through the first World Congress on Communication for Development
- Enhance the capacity of indigenous peoples to appropriate communication for development
- Identify key communication for development methods, tools, strategies and projects to support indigenous peoples' livelihoods.

17. A grant in the amount of $145,000 was approved by the Fund to support the PANOS Institute in enhancing awareness of indigenous peoples' knowledge and experiences in rural areas of Madagascar and build their capacity to make their development needs known to policymakers and others in positions of influence.

18. In the framework of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, a grant contribution of $145,000 was extended to the InterPress Service news agency to raise awareness about poor rural communities of indigenous peoples in Latin America and to build the capacity of local journalists in Latin America and Southern Africa to advocate with and for indigenous peoples and provide them with the necessary tools.

19. In 2006, the Regional Programme in Support of Indigenous People in the Amazon Basin (PRAIA) focused two "Learning route" training programmes on indigenous tourism activities. "Indigenous tourism enterprises: management experiences" promoted exposure visits of indigenous peoples from different Latin American countries to successful ecotourism initiatives in the Bolivian Amazon. The scope of the "Learning route" programmes was to build the capacity of indigenous representatives undertaking indigenous ecotourism initiatives through learning by seeing and sharing experiences. "Following the Incas' tracks" brought together indigenous representatives from all over Latin America to visit successful living tourism experiences in the highlands of Peru.

[8] In recent years, IFAD has been promoting more effective and faster learning methods based on a constantly evolving methodology called "Learning route", which consists of study tours realized in different Latin American countries, involving visitors (most of whom are indigenous) from different countries and organizations. The study tours are based on a replicated "see and learn" methodology.

20. In 2006, PRAIA launched the fourth Anaconda Film Festival. The festival, organized by PRAIA in cooperation with several partner institutions every two years, has the objective of promoting audiovisual products realized by or focusing on indigenous peoples from the Amazon Basin and the Chaco region. The Anaconda Film Festival selects and publicizes the best indigenous films and awards them four different prizes. The films are selected by an international jury and awarded by several indigenous communities through itinerant exhibitions in different parts of Latin America. In 2006, 37 films were proposed, 12 were selected and the best four were awarded prizes:

- The film "Cachivera de los jaguares", by Brazilian director Vincent Carelli received first prize
- "Sipakapa no se vende", by Álvaro Revenga of Guatemala, received the prize for the best documentary
- The Bolivian Miguel Angel Yalauma received the prize for the best docu-fiction "Renacer: historia de un movima"
- The best fiction prize was awarded to the Bolivian Maria Morales for the experimental video "Venciendo el miedo".

21. The awards ceremony, Anaconda 2006, will be held in Quito on 8 March 2007 (for further details see www.praia-amazonia.org).

22. During 2006, PRAIA also supported the publication of the book "Viaje al centro de un sueño: Chalalan — una experiencia exitosa de ecoturismo comunitario en la Amazonia". The book is about the successful ecotourism experience of the Tacana community of San José de Uchupiamonas, in the Bolivian Amazon region. PRAIA ended as an IFAD-funded programme in 2006 and its successor, the PRAIA Foundation, was created as a result of the success of the programme. The newly established Foundation, during the course of the year, supported the publication of two books concerning indigenous peoples: "Medicina tradicional de las comunidades indígenas del Rio Quiquibey"; and "Qalauta, guía turística de trekking, escalada y boulder".

Other activities

23. As a follow-up to the Permanent Forum/IFAD brainstorming workshop on indigenous peoples' perspectives on IFAD-funded projects, held in Rome in November 2005, a policy forum was organized at IFAD headquarters in May 2006 on the theme "IFAD and indigenous peoples". The forum provided an opportunity for IFAD staff to reflect on and react to the recommendations of the workshop and, in so doing, determine how IFAD could increase both its operational and policy engagement capacities to specifically address the issues faced by indigenous peoples. The chair of the Permanent Forum and a member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights working group on indigenous populations and communities were invited as resource persons. The policy forum encouraged IFAD to develop specific principles of engagement to guide its work with indigenous peoples and to stress inclusiveness, specificity, flexibility and a demand-driven approach.

24. In June 2006, the Fund sponsored an indigenous expert to participate in the regional training for professional staff on indigenous and tribal peoples in Asia, organized by the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs.

25. As Chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, IFAD hosted the Group's annual meeting in September 2006. The focal points on indigenous issues of 15 United Nations agencies, multilateral organizations and international financial institutions attended the meeting and shared their experiences in the three following areas:

- Indigenous land, territories and resources
- Indigenous peoples' knowledge and technologies
- Indigenous culture and development.

26. The report of the meeting was submitted to the sixth session of the Forum (E/C.19/2007/2).

27. An exhibition entitled "An unknown India — arts and living tradition" was organized by IFAD in connection with the meeting, displaying art and handicrafts of the tribal peoples of India, or Adivasi.

28. Also, in support of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly, IFAD lobbied with the Italian members of Parliament who, on 12 December 2006, unanimously approved a motion in support of the Declaration.

IV. List of conferences and other meetings on indigenous issues to be hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development in 2007-2008

29. IFAD will be hosting the 2007 Multilateral Financial Institutions Environment Group meeting, which will take place in May 2007. The Group has been given the responsibility by the Heads of multilateral development agencies to promote greater cooperation between the various institutions for development effectiveness. The participants are primarily heads of environmental units/divisions in both multilateral and bilateral institutions. During the meeting, a brief session will be dedicated to discussing issues related to indigenous peoples. The proposed session would serve as a critical forum for IFAD to: (a) seek further inputs/views on the draft revised IFAD environmental assessment procedures; and (b) share the considerable experience and knowledge that it has developed through its engagement with indigenous groups.

30. In the process of developing the IFAD principles of engagement with indigenous peoples, the Fund will hold several consultations within IFAD and with indigenous peoples' representatives during the course of 2007.

31. Towards the end of 2007, IFAD expects to hold a workshop in India to document best practices and lessons learned from IFAD-funded projects in tribal areas. The workshop will also be an occasion to share experiences on the implementation of policies affecting tribal peoples in India, including the newly approved Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill.

Annex

Projects in support of indigenous peoples financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development: 2006

A. Loans

Region/country	*Project title*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost and financing (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
Asia						
China	Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Modular Rural Development Programme	**Main objectives** Reduce the incidence of poverty in target villages in a sustainable and gender-equitable way **Specific objectives** (a) Improve social and economic situation of poor women and men (b) Scale up innovations	**Project area** Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region **Target group** Ethnic minorities: Uygurs, Kazaks, Hui, Kirgiz, Mongolian, Xibe, Ozbek, Russian, Daur and Tatar groups	(a) Community-based natural resources management (b) Agricultural development (c) Strategic support for women (d) Microfinance development (e) Institutional support	**Total cost** 55 million **Estimated total cost benefiting ethnic minorities** 33 million, including an IFAD loan of 15.06 million	793 000 persons in roughly 176 000 households It is assumed that 60 per cent-90 per cent of the target group belongs to ethnic minorities, equivalent to about 105 600 households
Viet Nam	Programme for improving market participation of the poor in Ha Tinh and Tra Vinh provinces	**Main objective** Contribute to the sustainable improvement of incomes of poor people in rural areas of Viet Nam **Specific objectives** (a) Improvement of key markets and market	**Project area** Ha Tinh and Tra Vinh provinces **Target group** Poorer, more vulnerable households; women and woman-headed households;	(a) Commune market opportunities support (b) Job/ enterprise facilitation and market development	**Total cost** 37.3 million **Estimated total cost benefiting ethnic minorities** 10.4 million,	70 000 to 80 000 people, equivalent to about 50 000 households Estimated 14 000 ethnic minority households

Region/country	*Project title*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost and financing (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
		mechanisms, processes and linkages (b) Off-farm job creation and improvement of agricultural incomes (c) Linking market-based initiatives to the needs and priorities of poor communes within a better functioning market environment	underemployed youth; and ethnic minorities, especially the Khmer in Tra Vinh	(c) Enterprise financing	including an IFAD loan of 7.28 million	
Latin America						
Argentina	Rural areas development programme	**Main objective** Contribute to the sustainable reduction of rural poverty **Specific objectives** (a) Empower producer organizations/groups (b) Carry out social and productive projects for indigenous groups (c) Foster the transformation of traditional farm and non-farm activities of rural poor households into sustainable, revenue-generating business activities (d) Offer work and business opportunities to rural youth	**Project area** 10 provinces of Argentina: Formosa, Chaco, Misiones, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Sante Fe, Cordoba, La Pampa, Mendoza, San Juan **Target group** (a) Non-indigenous, family-based producers or adult rural workers (b) Indigenous communities (c) Young men and women	(a) Strengthening of human and social capital (b) Development of rural businesses (c) Institutional development	**Total cost** 44.8 million **Estimated total cost benefiting indigenous communities** 8.98 million, including an IFAD loan of 3.87 million	19 450 direct beneficiaries, of which 3 900 belong to indigenous communities (estimated 1 950 indigenous households)

Region/country	*Project title*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost and financing (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
		(e) Facilitate access by beneficiaries and their organizations to business support services **(f) Support institutional strengthening and policy dialogue in favour of rural poor people**				
Bolivia	Enhancement of the peasant camelid economy support project	**Primary objective** Enhance, increase and accumulate social, human, financial, physical and natural assets of poor camelid producers and microentrepreneurs, especially women and young people	**Project area** Selected municipalities from Oruro, La Paz and Potosí Department **Target group** Poor producers of South American domestic camelids and vicuñas and related artisans and small-scale traders Most of the population living in the highland of Bolivia is Quechua and Aymara speaking	(a) Sustainable management and rational use of vicuñas (b) Investments for the peasant camelid economy (c) Financial assets management and access to learning mechanisms	**Total cost** 14.38 million **Estimated total cost benefiting camelid producers** 14.38 million, including an IFAD loan of 7.23 million	48 500 direct beneficiaries, equivalent to about 14 100 households
Colombia	Rural microenter-prise assets programme: capitalization technical assistance and investment support	**Main objective** Increase the social, human, financial, physical and natural assets of small-scale entrepreneurs, especially women and young people, in poor rural areas of Colombia	**Project area** National programme **Target group** Small-scale producers, peasants, microentrepreneurs and craftworkers with scant access to resources but	(a) Investment and asset enhancement of rural microenterprises (b) Capacity-building and information for stakeholder linkages	**Total cost** 32.1 million **Estimated total cost benefiting Afro-Colombi us and**	128 000 direct beneficiaries, of which 20 000 are Afro-Colombians and 2 500 belong to indigenous groups

Region/country	*Project title*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost and financing (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
		Specific objective Increase the rural poor's access to financial resources, technical assistance, knowledge, information and governance structures (local, regional and national) essential to the development of their microenterprises and markets	dynamic social, economic and cultural potential Explicit inclusion of indigenous and Afro-Colombian people living in the programme area	(c) Knowledge management and programme administration	**indigenous groups** 5.64 million, including an IFAD loan of 3.51 million	Estimated 5 000 Afro-Colombian households and 625 indigenous households
Africa						
Mali	Kidal integrated rural development programme	**Main objective** Help reduce poverty and food insecurity in the Kidal region **Specific objectives** (a) Increase and diversify local residents' incomes by stabilizing returns from nomadic livestock husbandry and promoting agro-pastoral activities (b) Improve their living conditions, notably those of women by facilitating access to basic socio-economic services and infrastructure	**Project area** Kidal region **Target groups** The population in Kidal region is 70 per cent Kel Tamashek (also known as Touaregs)	(a) Development of agro-pastoral potential (b) Income-generation and diversification (c) Improved access to basic social services (d) Capacity-building	**Total cost** 22.83 million **Estimated total cost benefiting Touaregs** 15.98 million, including an IFAD loan of 7.94 million	20 000 persons, of which approximately 14 000 are Touaregs Estimated 2 800 Touareg households

Region/country	*Project title*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost and financing (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
Sudan	Butana integrated rural development project	**Main objective** Improve in a sustainable manner the livelihoods and resilience to drought of poor rural households **Specific objectives** (a) Establishing a coherent and cost-effective governance framework that ensures a regulated access to land and water resources of the Butana (b) Improving the access and bargaining position of women and men in the marketing of livestock (c) Developing the capacity of community-based organizations to engage in environmentally sound, socially and gender equitable development initiatives	**Project area** Butana region **Target groups** Smallholder agropastoralist households, smallholder households engaged in irrigation and smallholder transhumant households	(a) Development of agriculture, rangeland and water services (b) Livestock and marketing development (c) Community development (d) Institutional support and project management	**Total cost** 29.85 million **Estimated total cost benefiting transhumant pastoralists** 5.22 million, including an IFAD loan of 4.34 million	40 000 households, of which 7 000 households are transhumant pastoralists

B. Global/regional grants

Global/regional/ country/ organization	*Project title*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost and financing (in United States dollars)*	*Beneficiaries*
Latin American countries/ regional programme for rural development training	"Learning routes" training programme	**Main objective** Improve the implementation and management of rural development and poverty reduction projects **Specific objectives** (a) Enhance the knowledge accumulated by rural associations, peasants and organizations implementing and operating rural development projects (b) Design, execute, validate and replicate innovative solutions and activities (c) Improve the design and management of rural development projects	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	(a) Advisory and technical assistance services for the identification and design of learning routes (b) Training services (c) Development and dissemination of innovative rural development practices and ideas	**Total cost** 1.5 million **IFAD contribution** 900 000	Indigenous leaders from different Latin American countries
Global/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Communication for development and indigenous peoples: support to the mainstreaming of communication for development into policies and programmes	**Main objective** Enable indigenous groups and communities to be able to better communicate their principles, concepts and practices of development **Specific objectives** (a) Promote the mainstreaming of communication for development policies, programmes and services to foster the sustainable development of indigenous peoples' communities (b) Enhance the capacity of indigenous peoples to appropriate communication for development	**Project area** Global	(a) Organization of a special session of the World Congress on Communication for Development on indigenous peoples and communication for development (b) Support for the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives	**Total cost** 50 000 **IFAD contribution** 50 000	Global

Global/regional/ country/ organization	*Project title*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost and financing (in United States dollars)*	*Beneficiaries*
		(c) Identify key communication for development methods, tools, strategies and projects to support indigenous peoples' livelihoods		from different regions in the World Congress (c) Display of multimedia materials prepared by indigenous peoples at the World Congress		
Latin American and Southern African countries/ InterPress Service News Agency	Enabling indigenous peoples of Latin America and Southern Africa to use strategic communication skills to reduce poverty in their communities	**Main objective** Raise awareness about poor rural communities of indigenous peoples in Latin America and Southern Africa during the Second International Decade for Indigenous Peoples and build the capacity of local journalists in Latin America and Southern Africa to advocate on behalf of indigenous peoples by providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills to do so **Specific objectives** (a) Build momentum during the Second International Decade for Indigenous Peoples to place the issues of indigenous peoples on the development agenda of Governments and development organizations (b) Promote pro-poor research by gathering and sharing first-hand experiences of indigenous communities from rural areas regarding innovative approaches to tackling indigenous rural poverty	**Project area** *Latin America* Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Paraguay, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, Mexico *Southern Africa* South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland	(a) Gathering, translating and distributing human interest stories (b) Workshops (c) Journalist award	**Total cost** 145 000 **IFAD contribution** 145 000	Indigenous peoples from Latin America and Southern Africa

Global/regional/ country/ organization	*Project title*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost and financing (in United States dollars)*	*Beneficiaries*
		(c) Build the capacity of InterPress Service News Agency to influence pro-poor policies				
		(d) Build the capacity of local journalists in developing countries of Latin America and Southern Africa to gain the skills and knowledge they need to report on indigenous peoples' issues				

C. Country grants

Country/ organization	*Project title*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost and financing (in United States dollars)*	*Beneficiaries*
Panama/ Centro de Gestión Local de Darien y Comarcas	Sustainable local tourism development in Darien	**Main objective** Generate income and employment in the indigenous and Afro-descendant communities of the Darien region in a sustainable manner **Specific objectives** (a) Elaborate a development plan for the local tourism industry, based on national and international demand, in a participatory manner in consultation with sector stakeholders (b) Strengthen capacities of local business and support community-based initiatives for the development of local ecotourism (c) Create a communication strategy that would foster promotion of the local tourism initiatives and exchange with national/international ecotourism sector	Darien region of Panama	(a) Planning and organization of tourism (b) Promotion of the Darien region (c) Capacity strengthening and support to local tourism initiatives (d) Communication strategy	**Total cost** 280 000 **IFAD contribution** 200 000	The programme is expected to benefit 5 000 households (or 30,000 persons)
Belize/ United Nations Development Programme Belize	Building pro-poor capacities for local government and provision of rural financial services	**Main objective** Support the decentralization process of the Government of Belize by strengthening local institutional capacities **Specific objectives** (a) Promote the increased outreach of the financial services that selected credit unions offer to low income households and small and microbusiness enterprises in rural and other poverty stricken areas	Selected districts of Belize	(a) Institutional capacity-building of the Belize Credit Union League and selected member credit unions (b) Building up local organizational and governance capacities in National Association of	**Total cost** 289 000 **IFAD contribution** 200 000	The Project will benefit indigenous populations of Belize, especially Mayan and Garifuna communities

Country/ organization	*Project title*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost and financing (in United States dollars)*	*Beneficiaries*
		(b) Strengthen village councils, district association and National Association of Village Council Organizations so that they can influence policymakers to foster national development particularly in reference to poverty alleviation in rural areas		Village Councils Organizations		
Madagascar/ Panos Limited	Capacity-building of indigenous peoples in rural areas of Madagascar	**Main objective** Increased understanding and awareness of the knowledge and experiences of indigenous peoples and build their capacity to make their development needs known to policymakers and influencers **Specific objectives** (a) Increase awareness throughout the development community and national governments of the importance of indigenous peoples' knowledge of and priorities for the environment and their development needs (b) Build the capacity of indigenous peoples to document their experience and knowledge and help them gain the skills to communicate this to external audiences (c) Improve the national media coverage on issues that affect indigenous communities (d) Amplify the voices and experiences of indigenous peoples living in rural areas of Madagascar (e) Develop a website to promote the testimonies, photographs and video clips to a large audience	**Project area** Rural areas of Madagascar	(a) Project planning (b) Capacity-building (c) Testimony collection, transcription and translation (d) Video production and community discussion (e) Media fellowship for print journalist and a photographer (f) Analysis and editing of the testimonies and videos (g) Local, national and regional dissemination of the testimonies and video clips (h) International dissemination (i) Promotion	**Total cost** 145 000 **IFAD contribution** 145 000	Indigenous peoples of rural areas in Madagascar